

(12) **United States Patent**
Saxton et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 12,029,367 B2**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 9, 2024**

(54) **MAGNETIC TOOL SET**

(71) Applicant: **MUNCHKIN, INC.**, Van Nuys, CA (US)

(72) Inventors: **Matthew Joseph Saxton**, Moorpark, CA (US); **Kaitlyn Giselle Flores**, Cary, NC (US)

(73) Assignee: **MUNCHKIN, INC.**, Van Nuys, CA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **17/858,972**

(22) Filed: **Jul. 6, 2022**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**
US 2024/0008709 A1 Jan. 11, 2024

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A47L 13/42 (2006.01)
A46B 17/00 (2006.01)
A47L 13/12 (2006.01)
A47L 13/52 (2006.01)
F16B 1/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **A47L 13/42** (2013.01); **A46B 17/00** (2013.01); **A47L 13/12** (2013.01); **A47L 13/52** (2013.01); **F16B 1/00** (2013.01); **A46B 2200/302** (2013.01); **F16B 2200/83** (2023.08)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC F16M 11/00; F16B 2200/83; F16B 1/00; A47L 13/42; A46B 17/00; A46B 2200/302

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,340,199	A *	7/1982	Brock	A47G 1/215 248/490
4,524,938	A *	6/1985	Strahs	A47L 13/51 248/110
5,039,047	A *	8/1991	Pitzo	A47G 1/17 248/467
7,530,138	B1	5/2009	Platt	
9,560,923	B1 *	2/2017	Winnard	B25H 3/04
9,800,283	B2 *	10/2017	Schmidt	A45C 13/1069
9,826,880	B1	11/2017	Faraone	
11,143,360	B2 *	10/2021	Brownstone	F16B 21/065
11,482,359	B2 *	10/2022	Eliason	H01F 7/0252
11,771,294	B2 *	10/2023	Balz	A47L 13/12 401/268
2005/0045784	A1 *	3/2005	Pitlor	H02G 3/20 248/206.5
2011/0084193	A1 *	4/2011	Gauger	A46B 17/08 248/690

(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DE	20003727	U1	7/2000
WO	WO2022180472	*	9/2022
WO	WO-2022180472	A1 *	9/2022

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

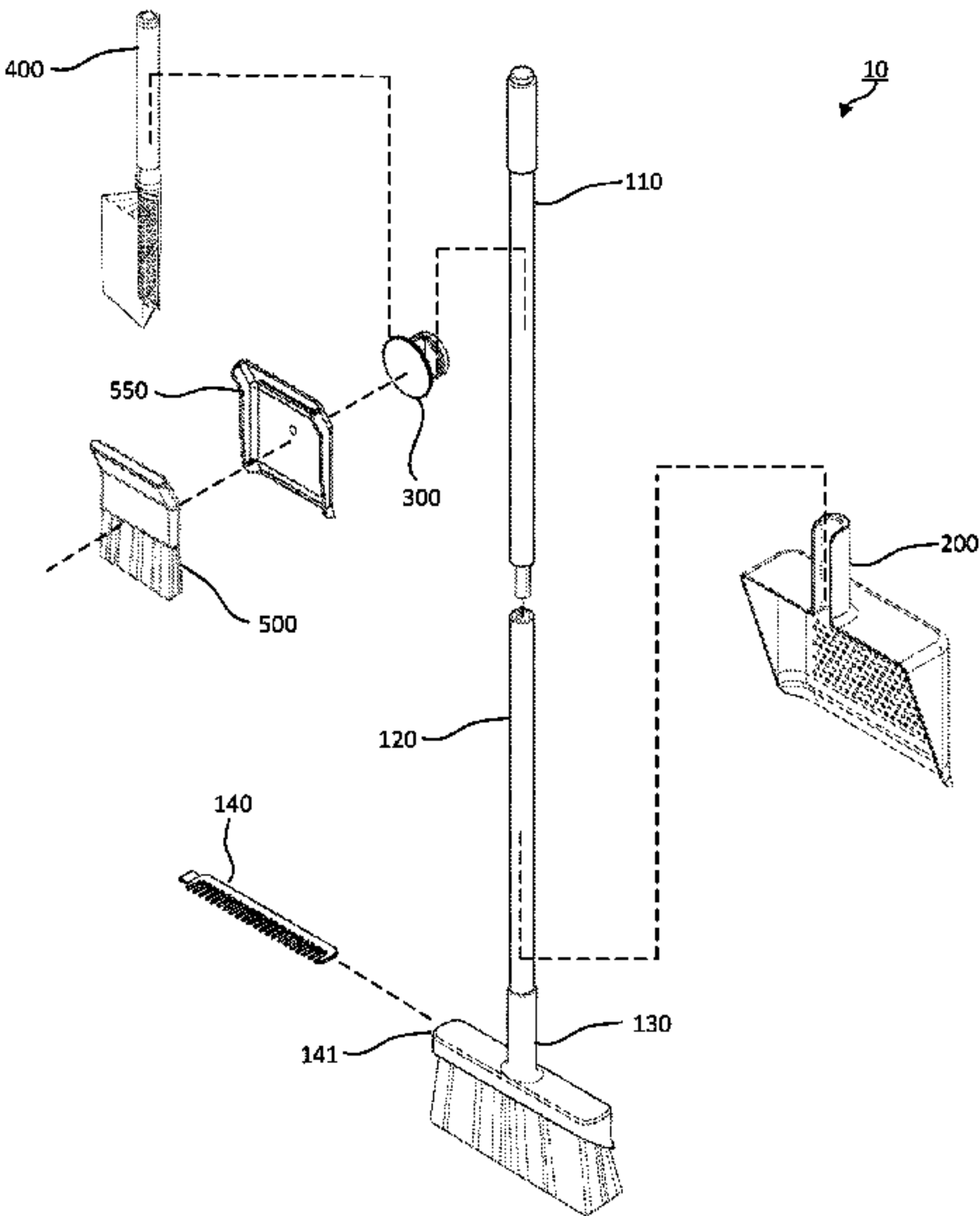
International Search Report and Written Opinion mailed Oct. 4, 2022 (13 pages).

Primary Examiner — Monica E Millner
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Robert Z. Evora, Esq.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A modular cleaning set includes one or more separable components magnetically attached to each other, and including a broom, dustpan, mini-brooms, and one or more brushes. The handles and rods of the cleaning set may be reversibly attached to any of the individually separable components.

20 Claims, 49 Drawing Sheets



(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2016/0207190	A1 *	7/2016	Balz	B25G 1/00
2019/0167063	A1	6/2019	Balz	
2020/0182276	A1 *	6/2020	Lebovitz	F16B 11/006
2020/0191185	A1 *	6/2020	Girardin	F16M 11/041
2021/0016429	A1	1/2021	Savard	
2022/0104609	A1	4/2022	Iradukunda	
2022/0228709	A1 *	7/2022	Chao	F16M 11/10

* cited by examiner

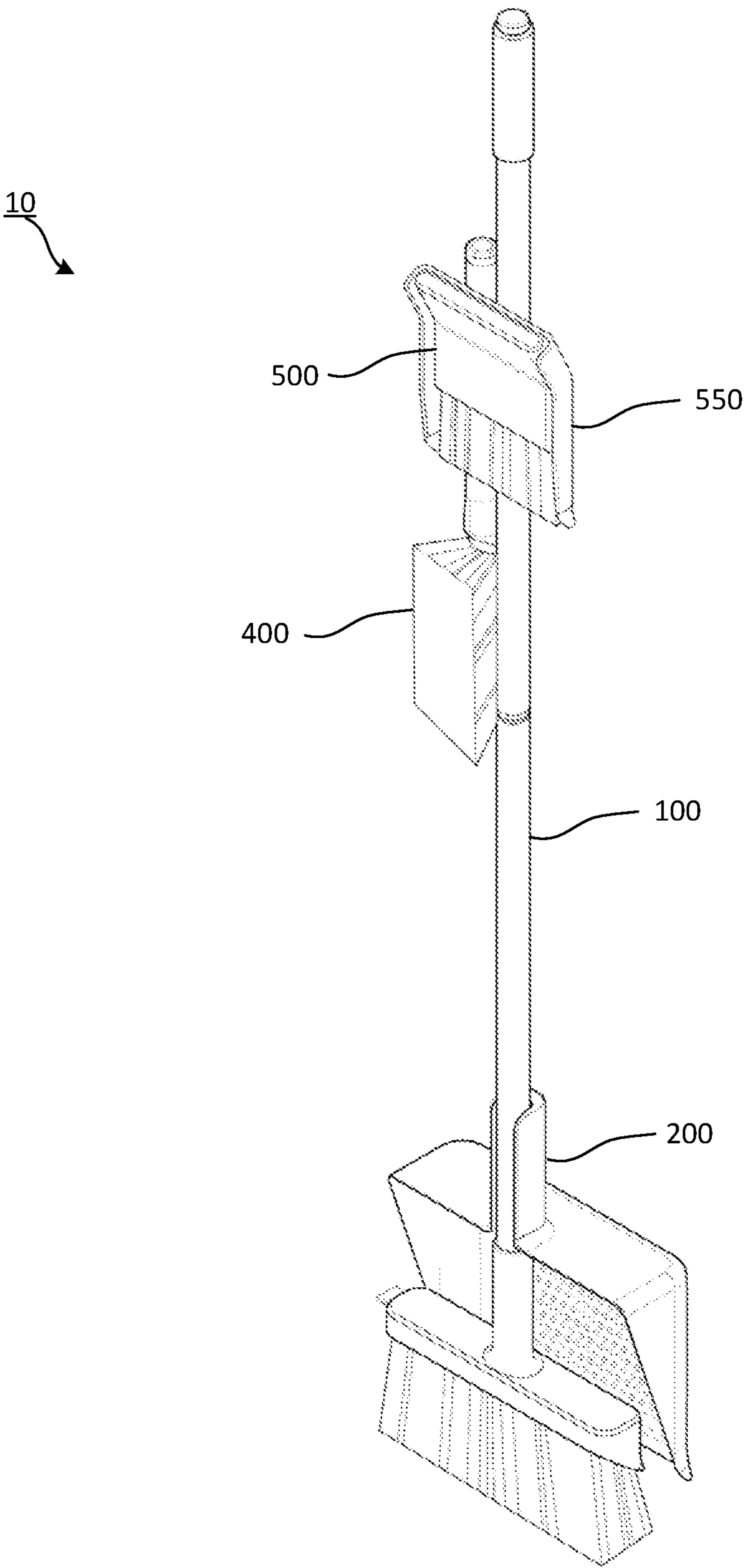


FIG. 1

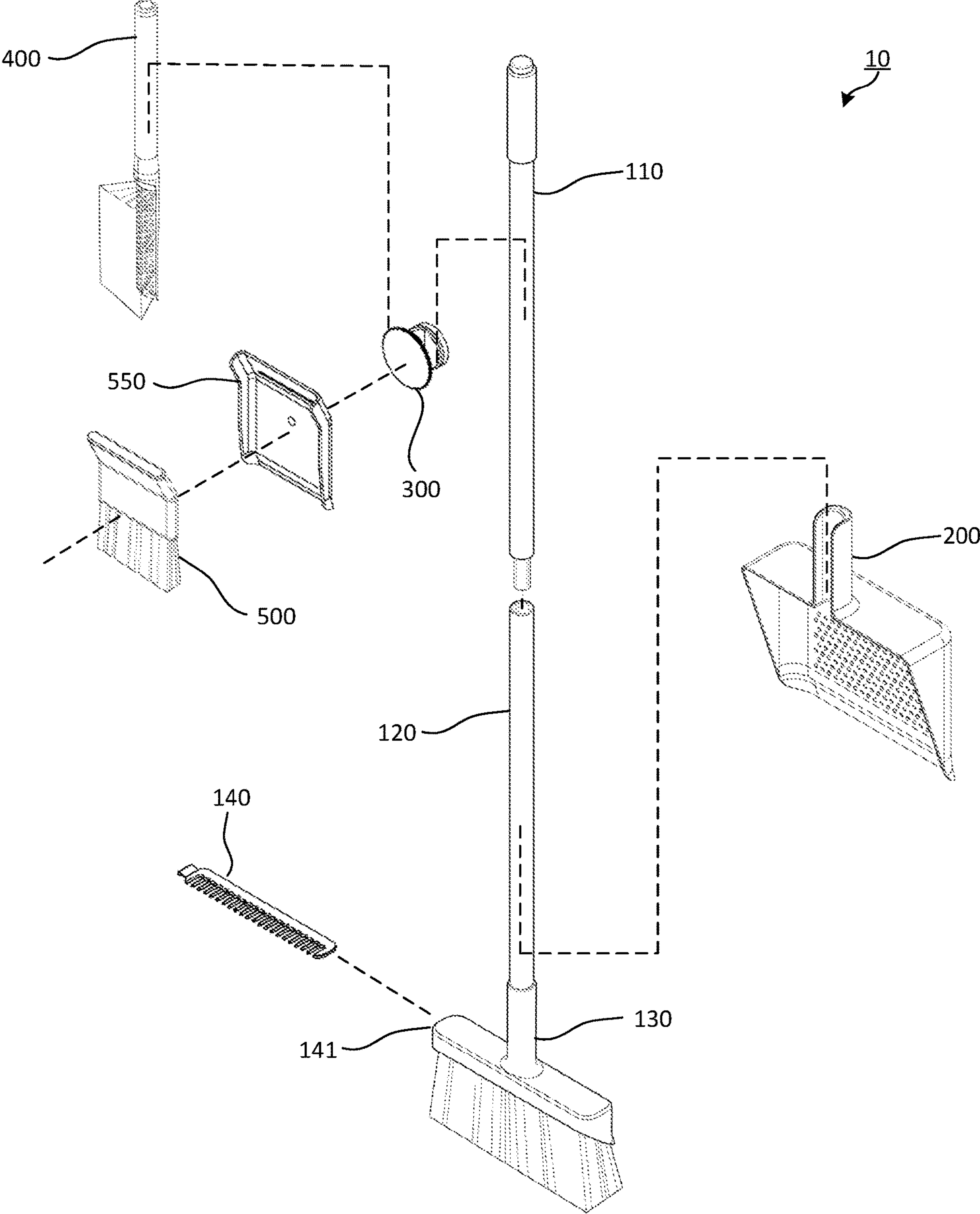


FIG. 2

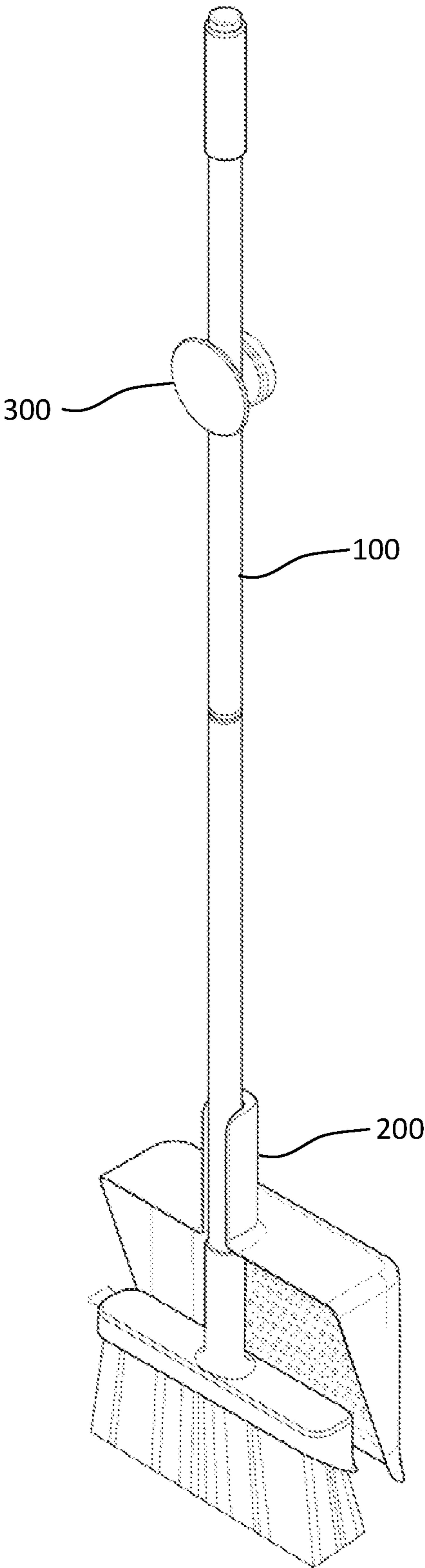


FIG. 3

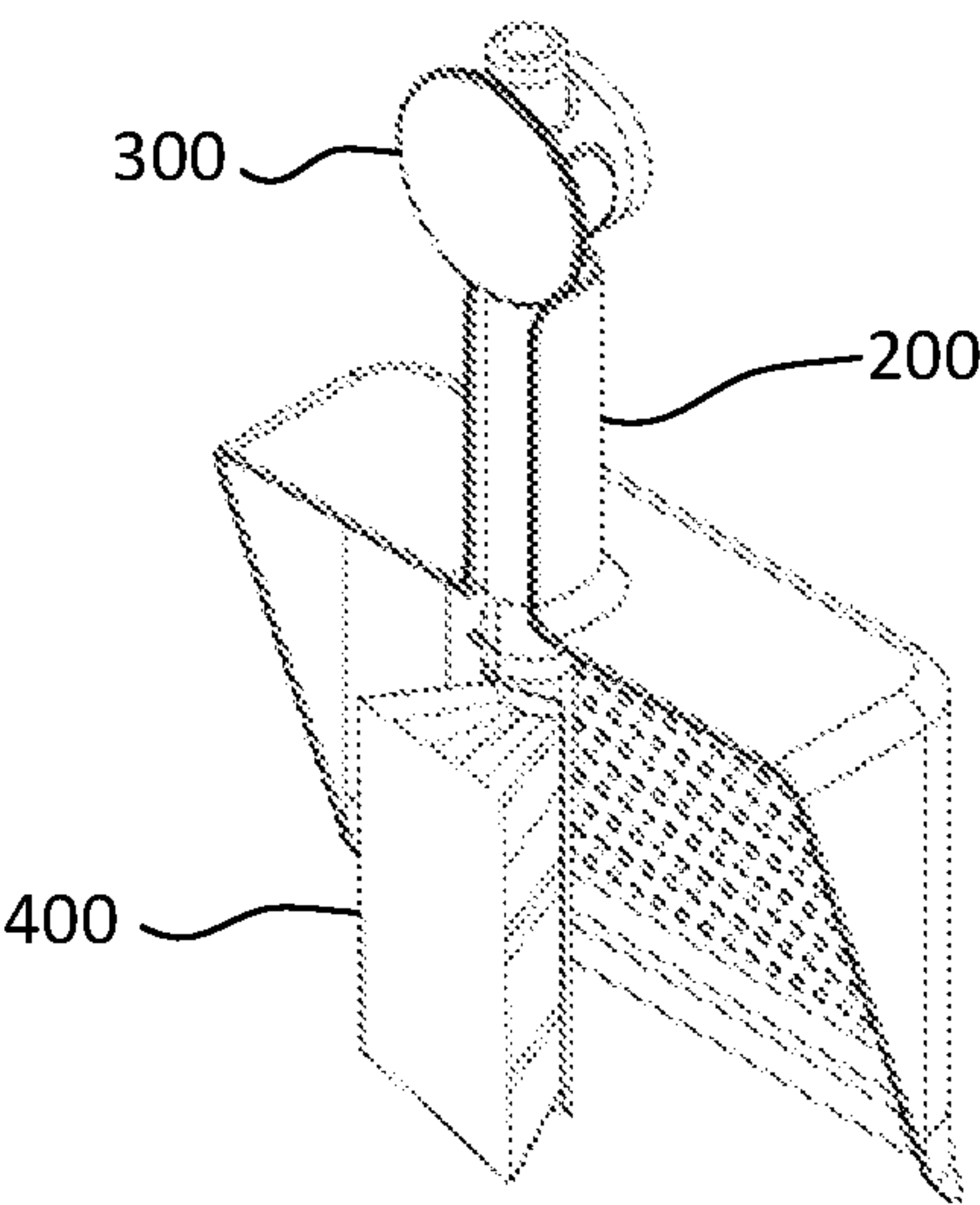


FIG. 4

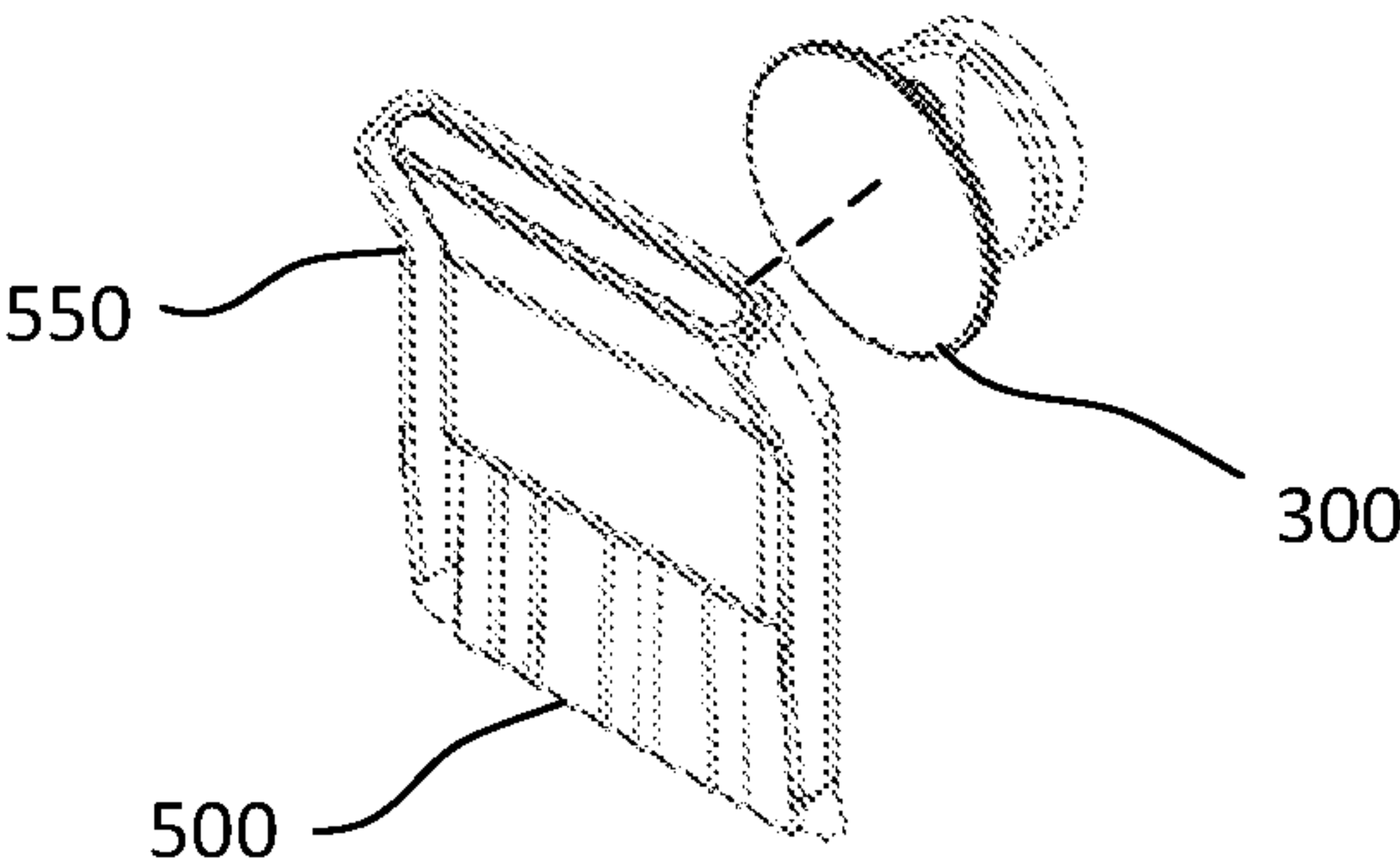


FIG. 5

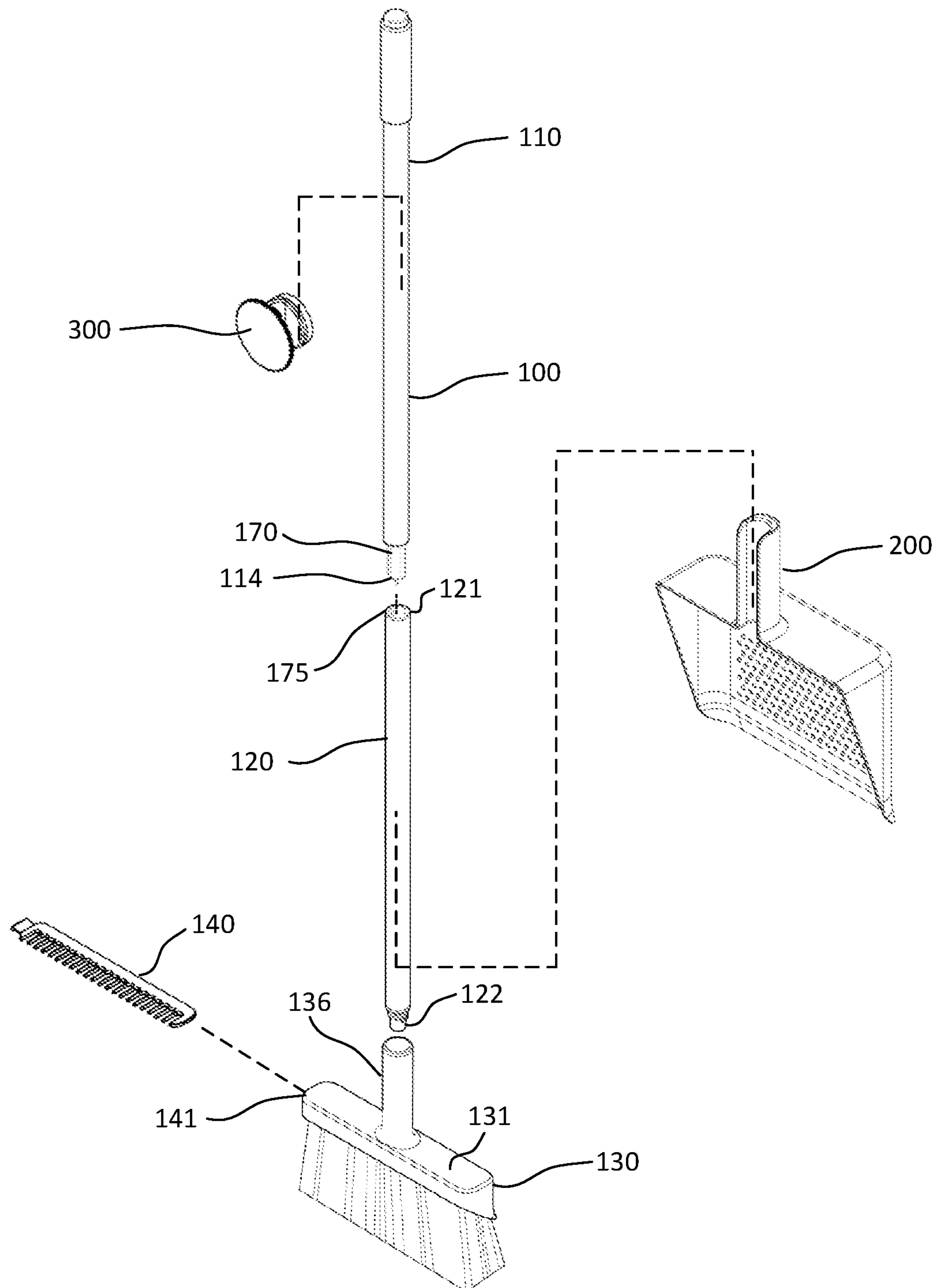


FIG. 6

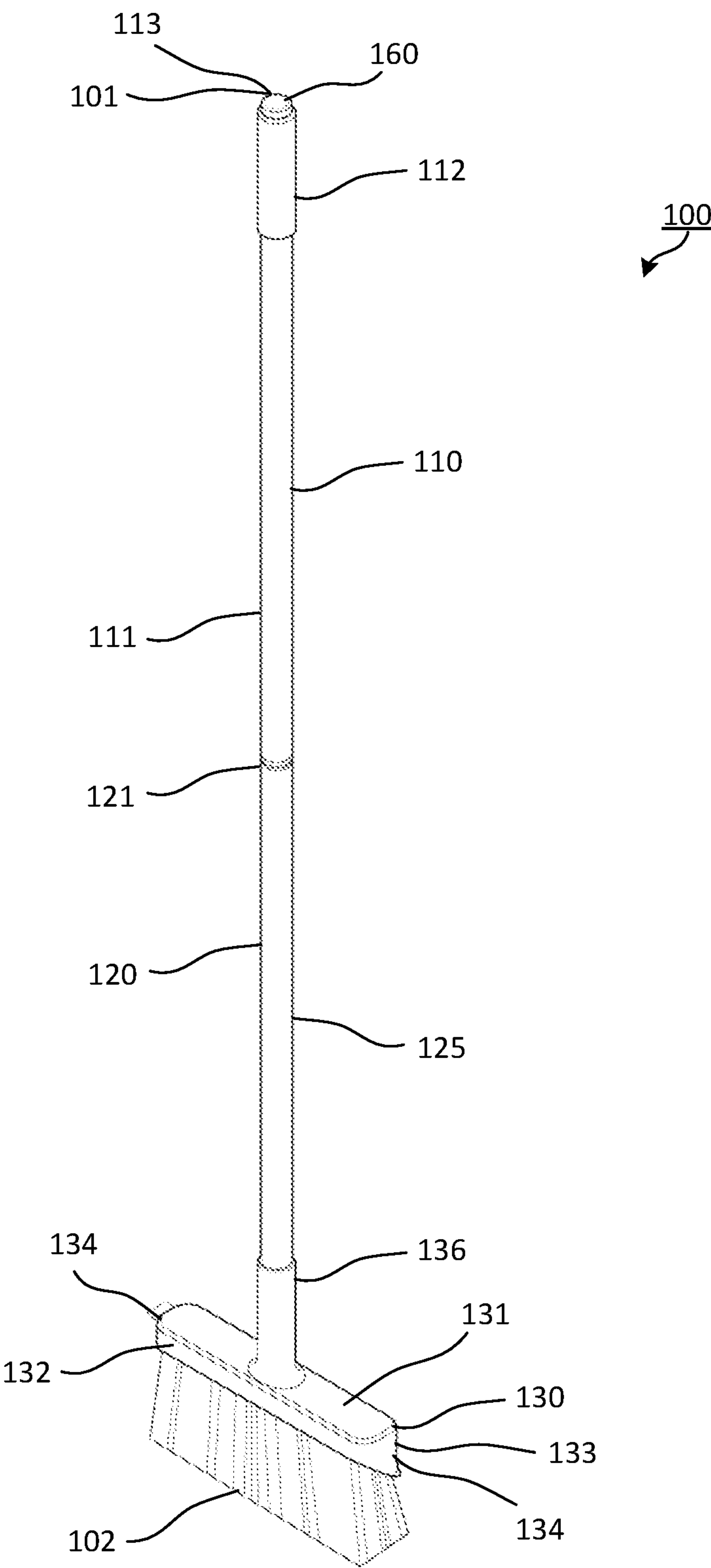


FIG. 7

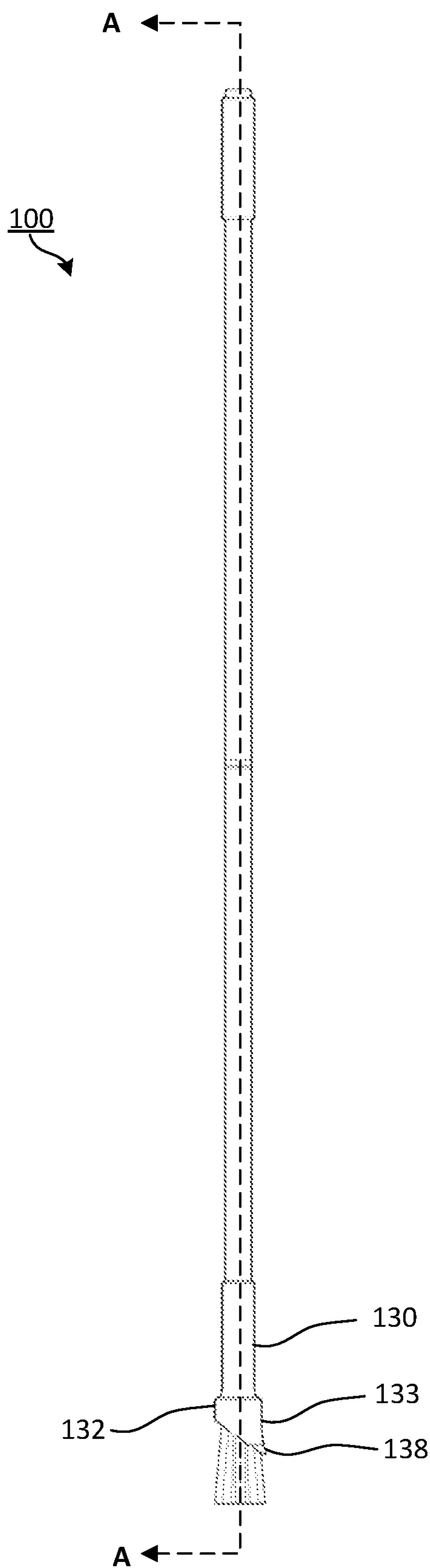


FIG. 8

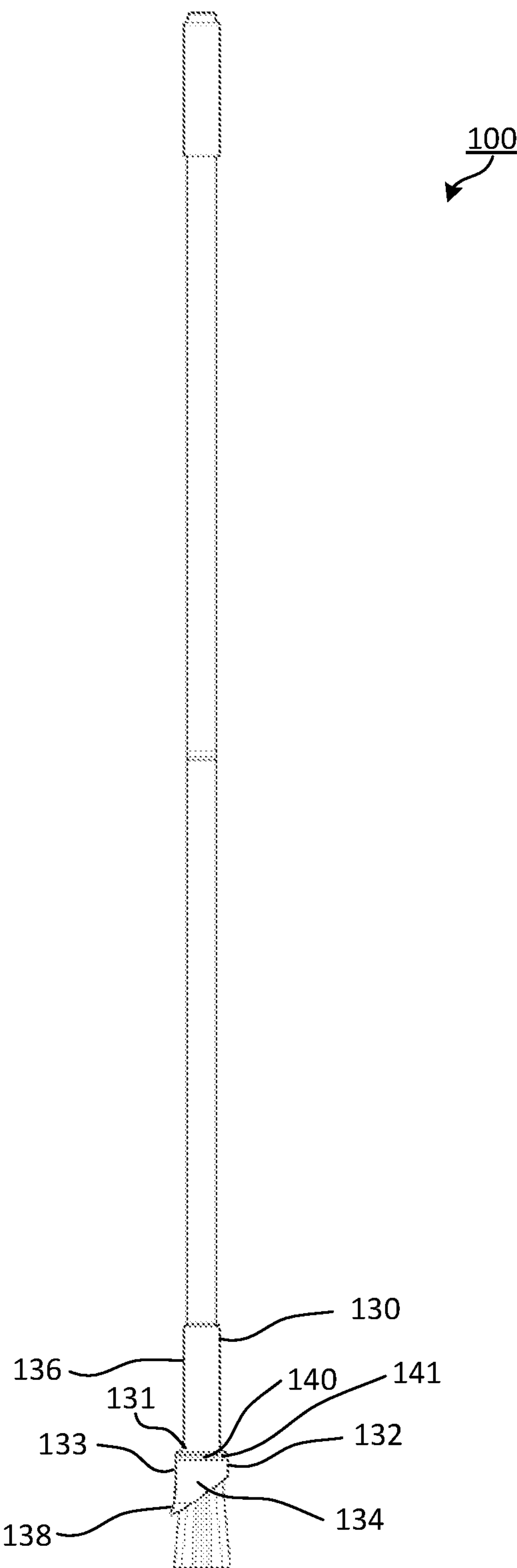


FIG. 9

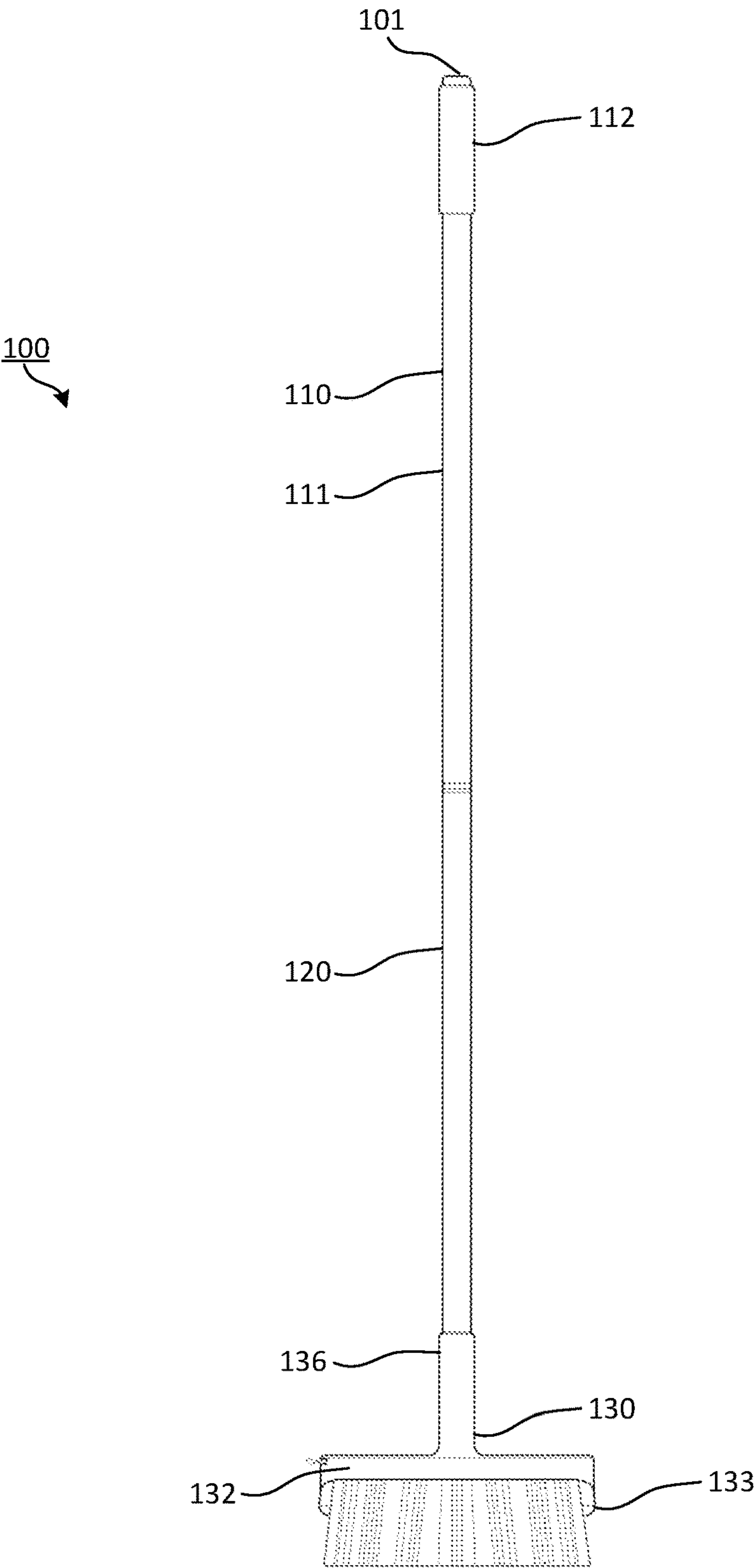


FIG. 10

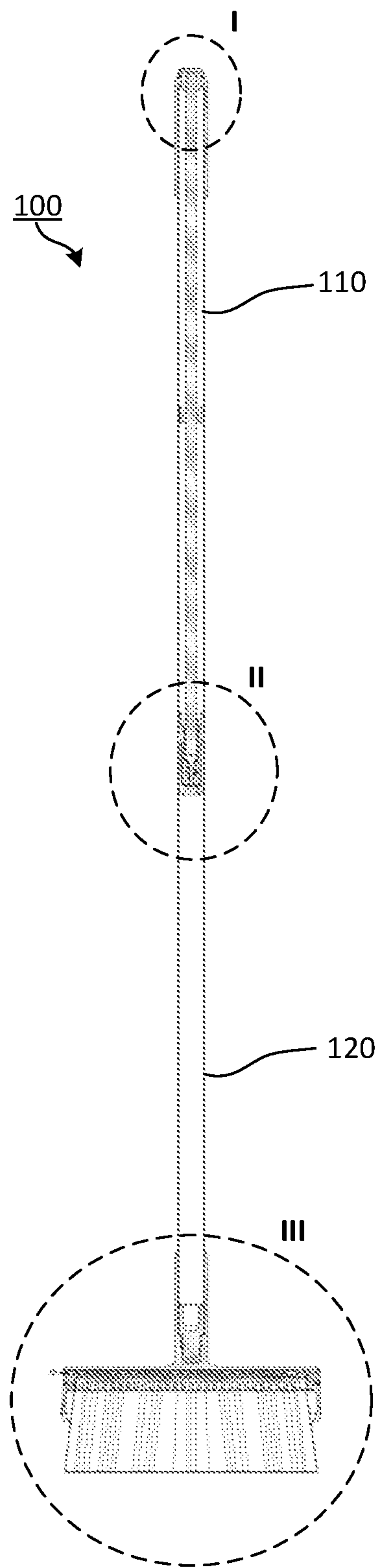


FIG. 11A

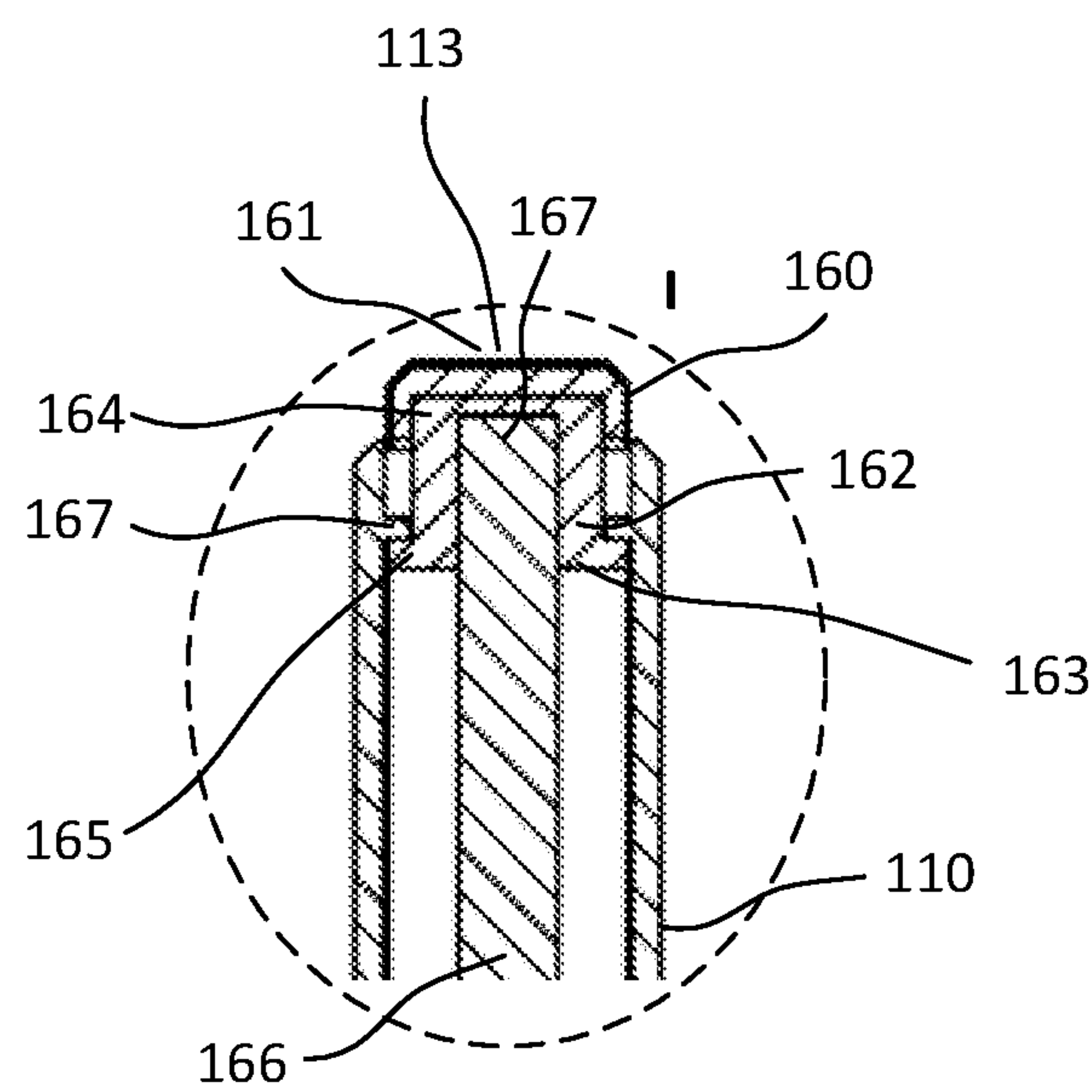


FIG. 11B

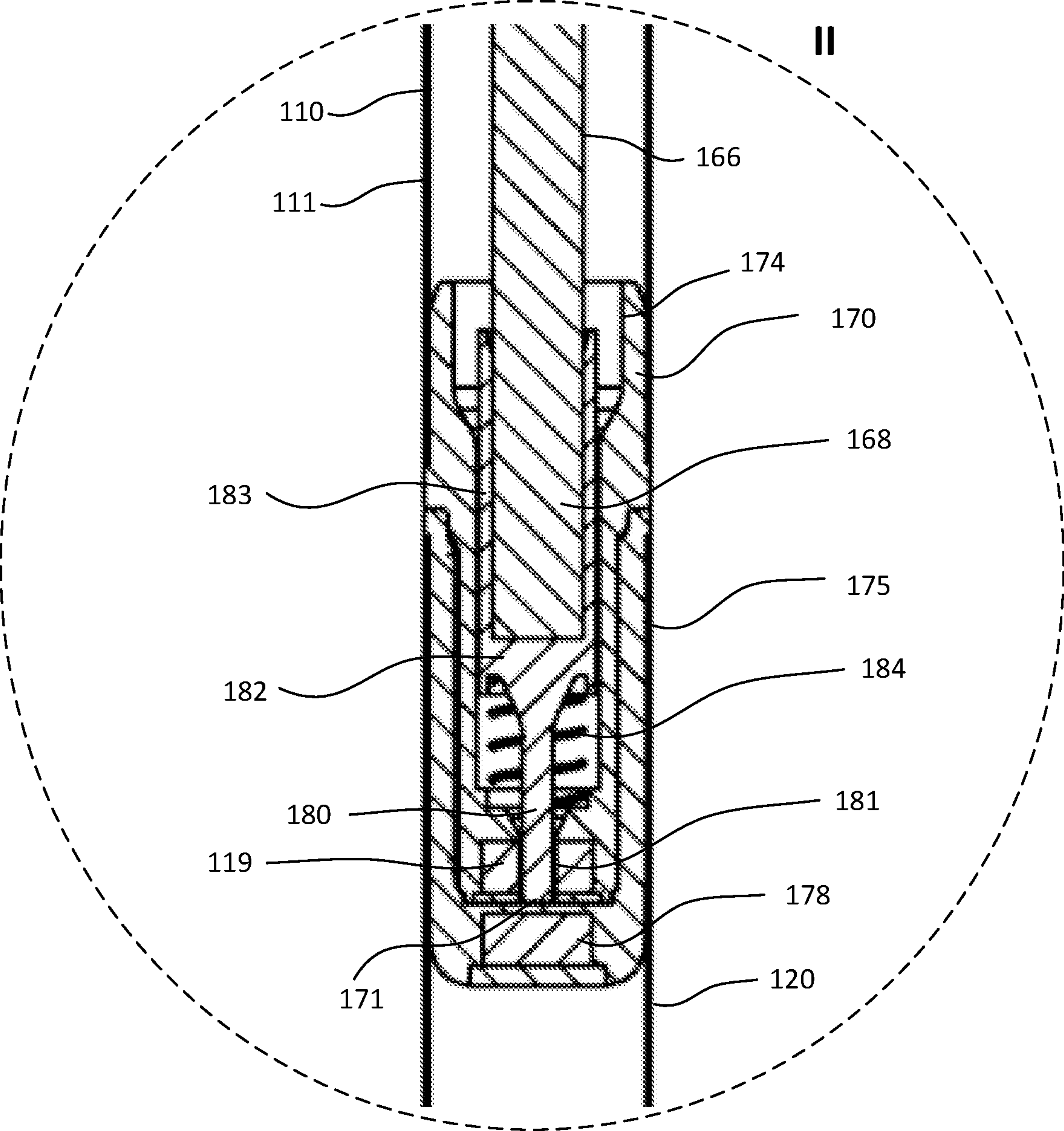


FIG. 11C

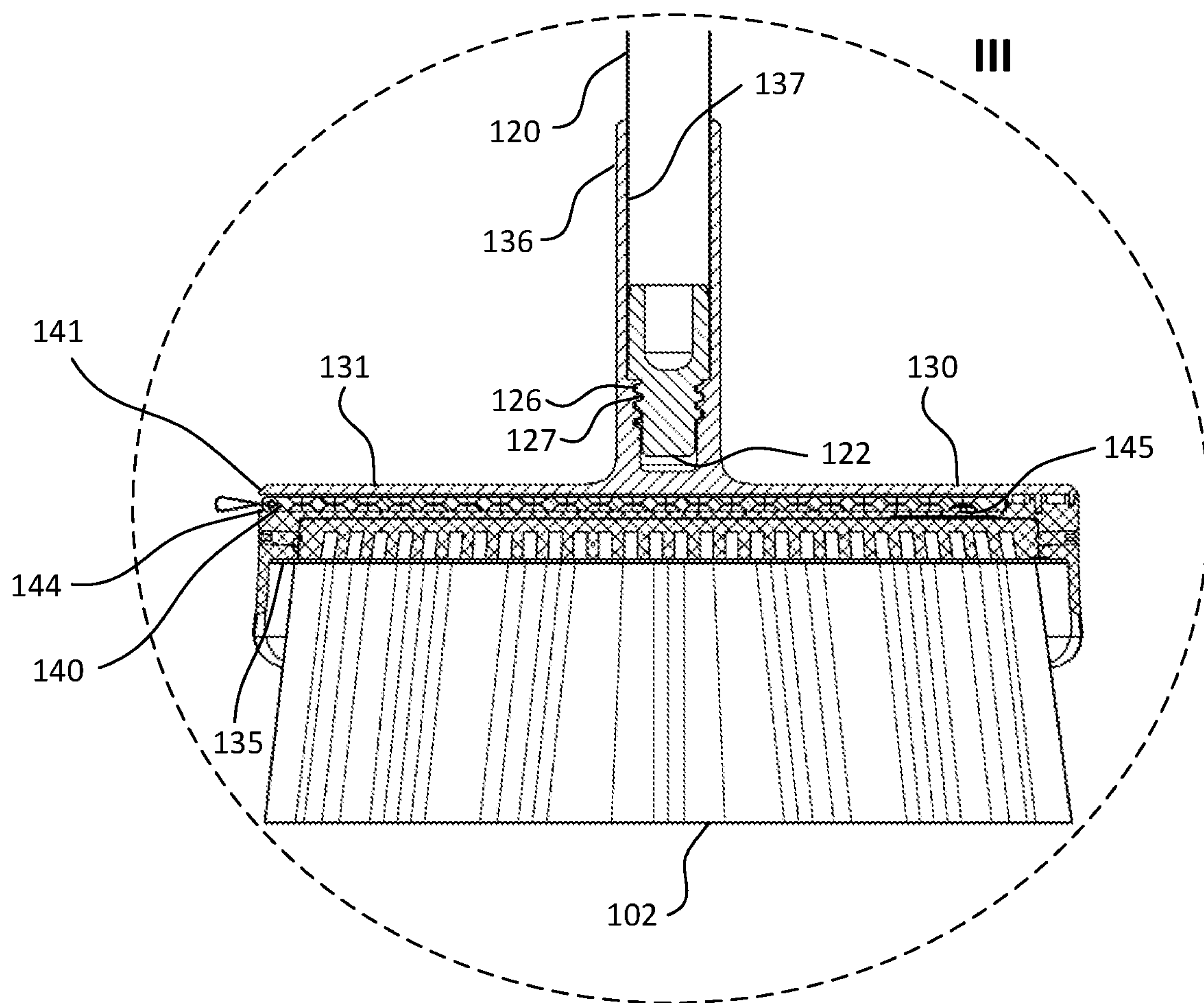


FIG. 11D

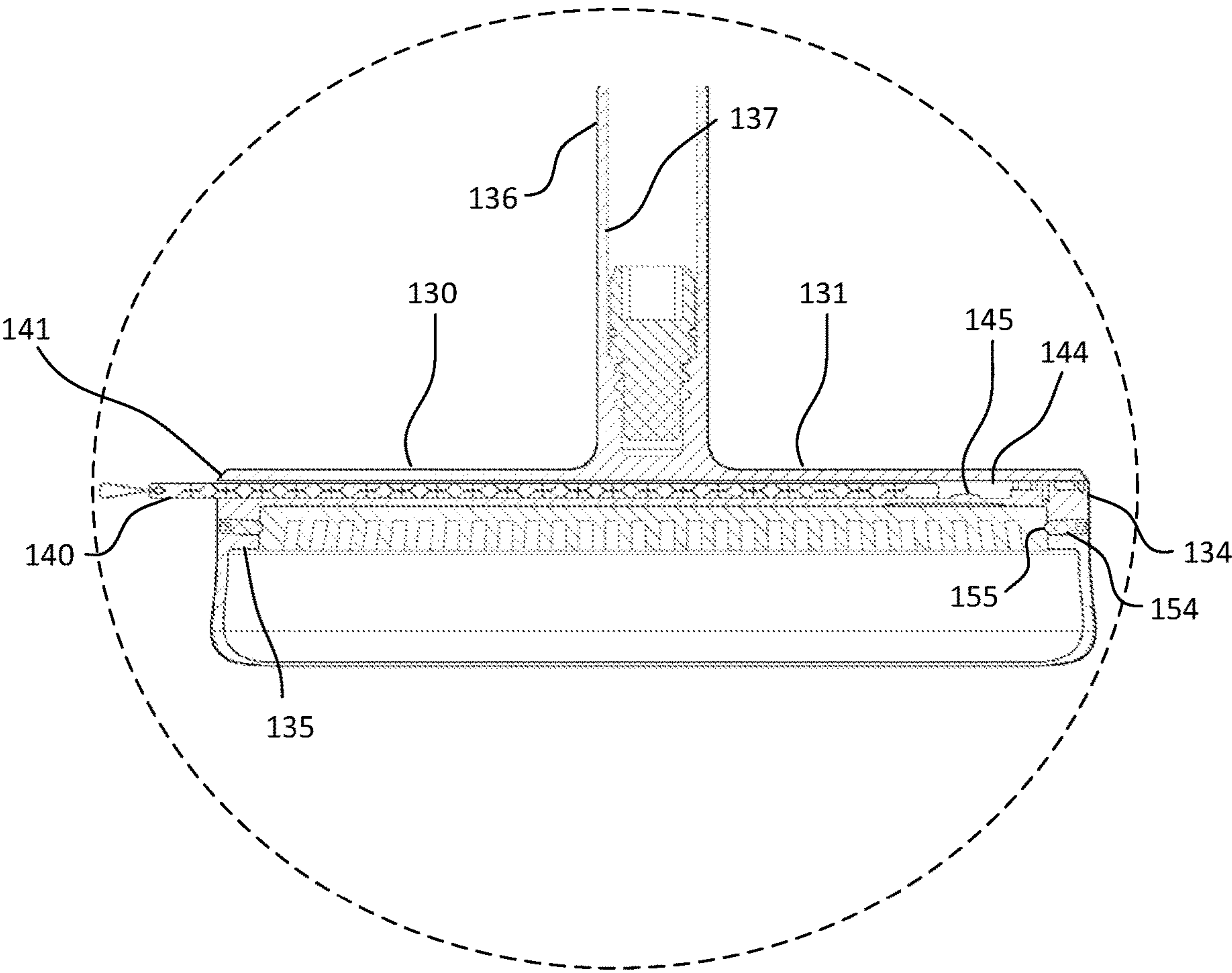


FIG. 11E

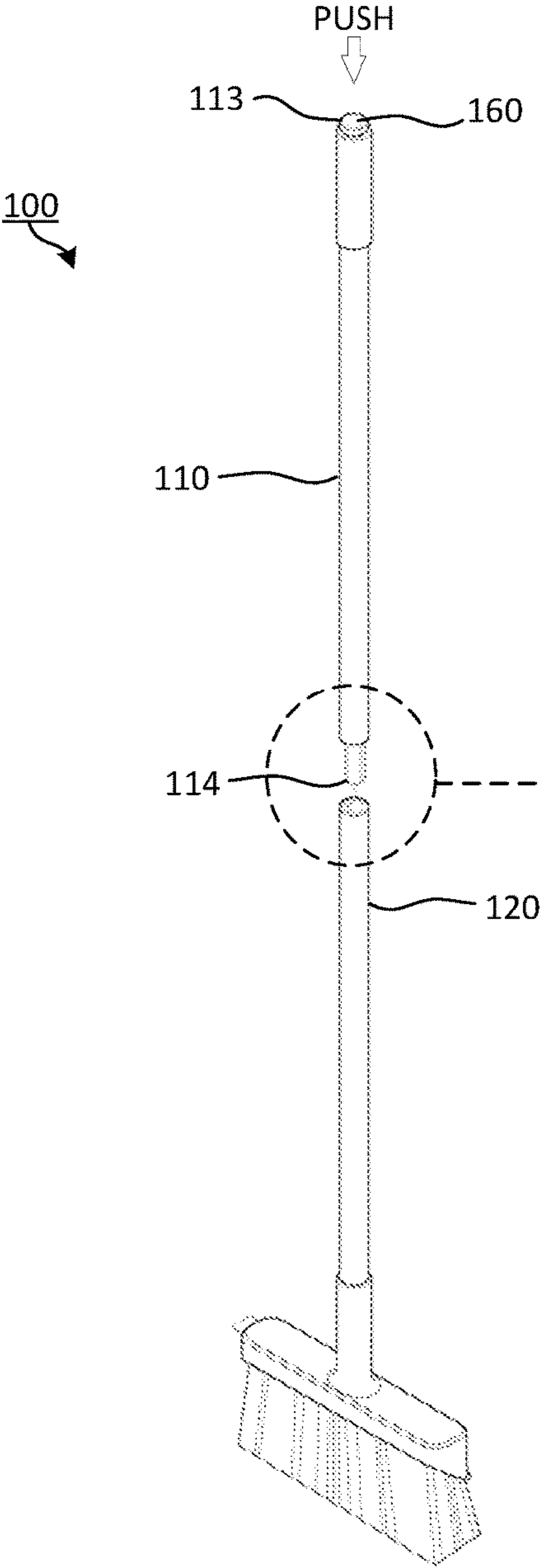


FIG. 12A

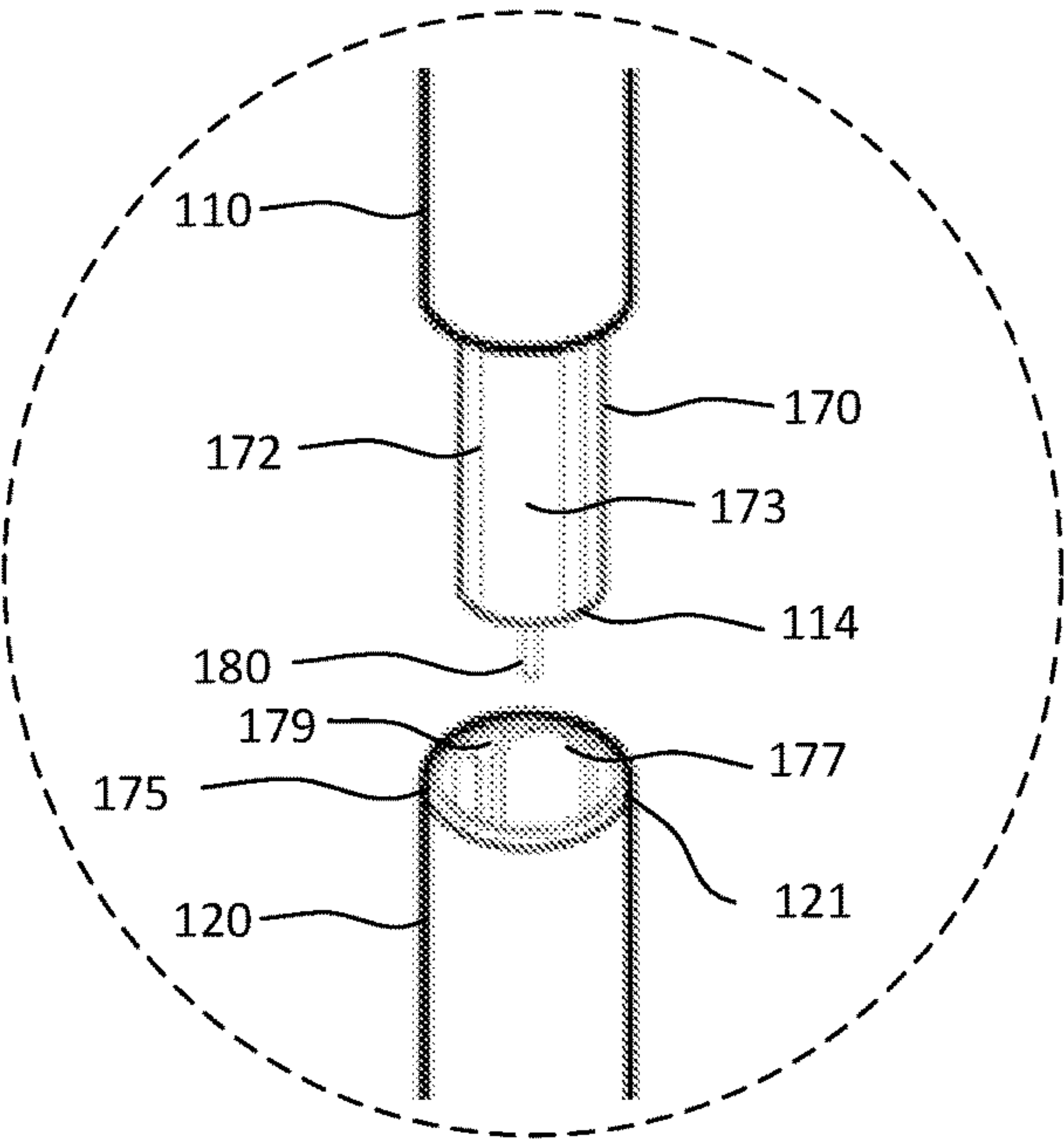


FIG. 12B

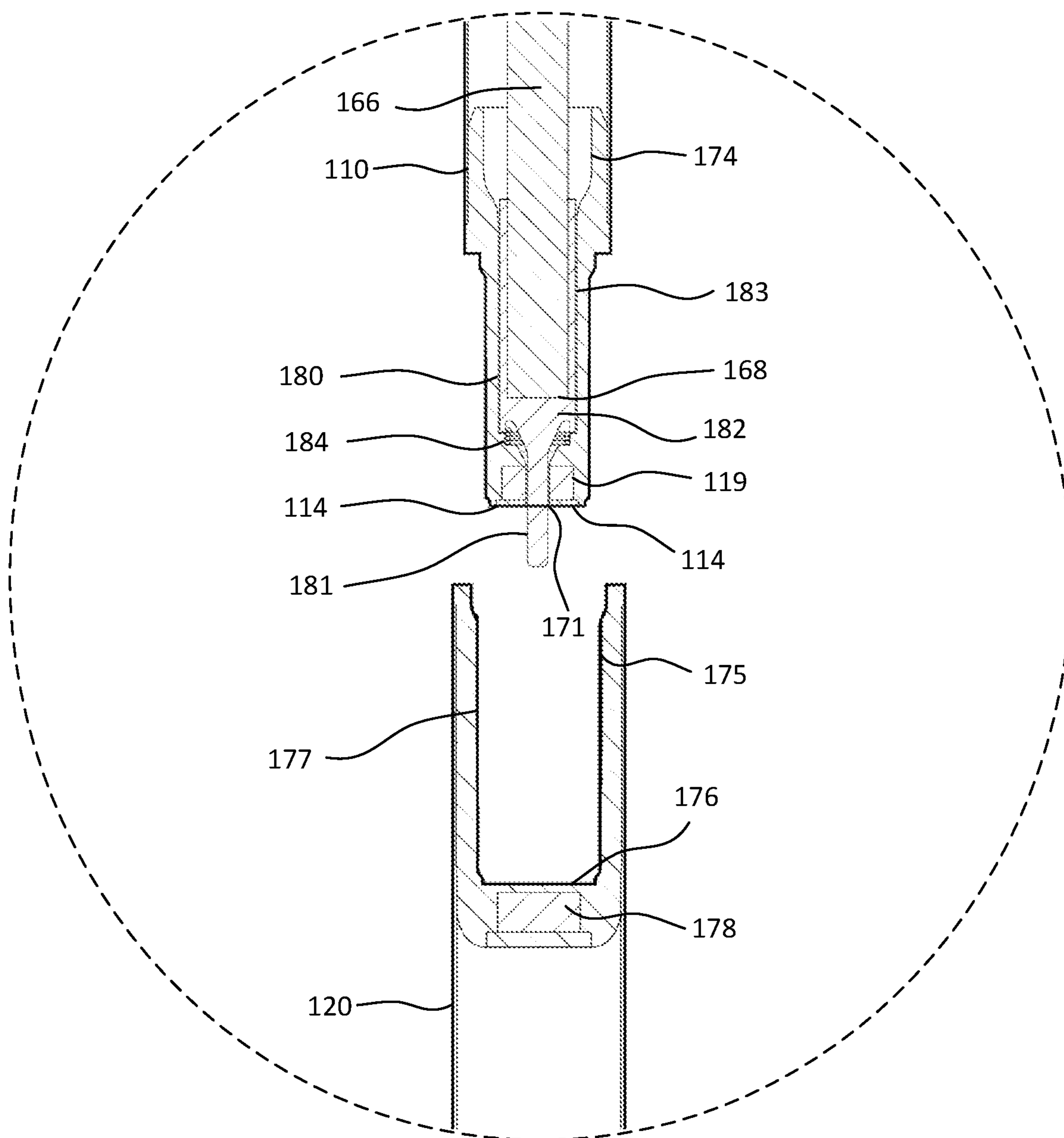


FIG. 12C

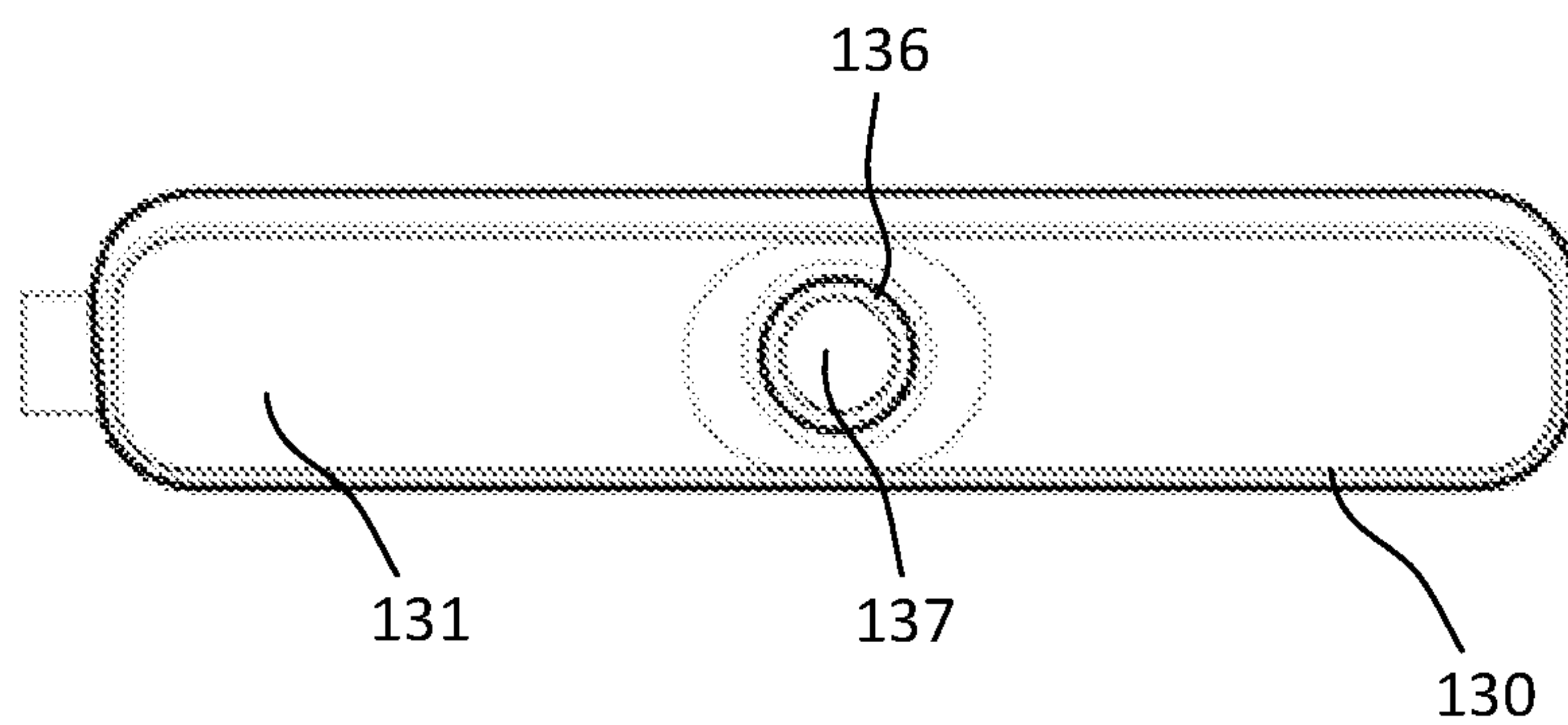


FIG. 13

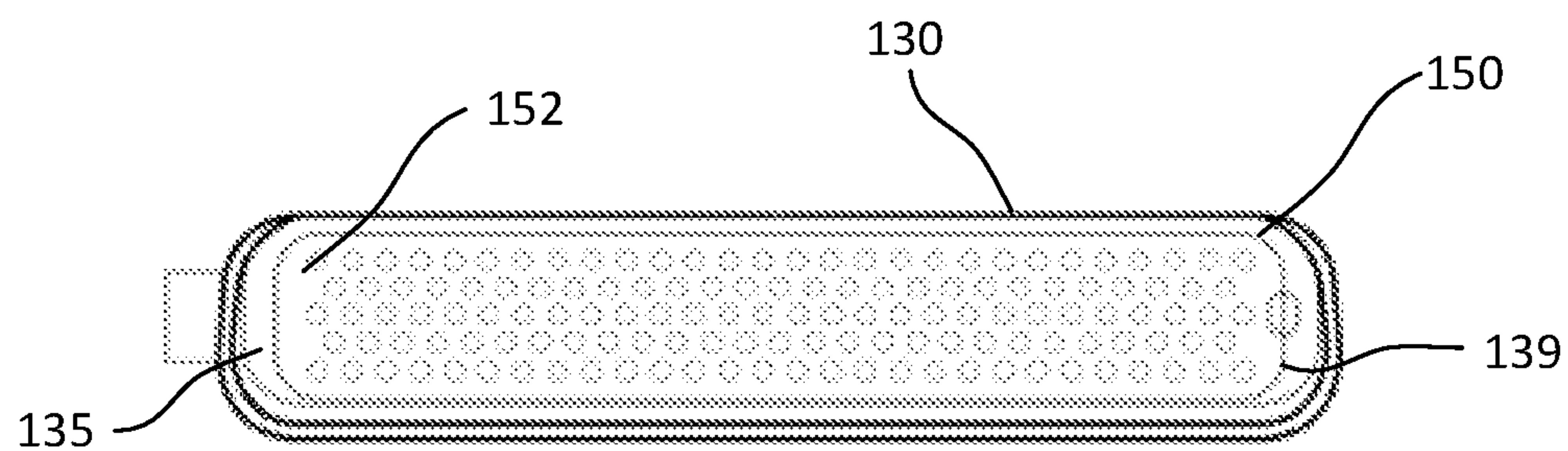


FIG. 14

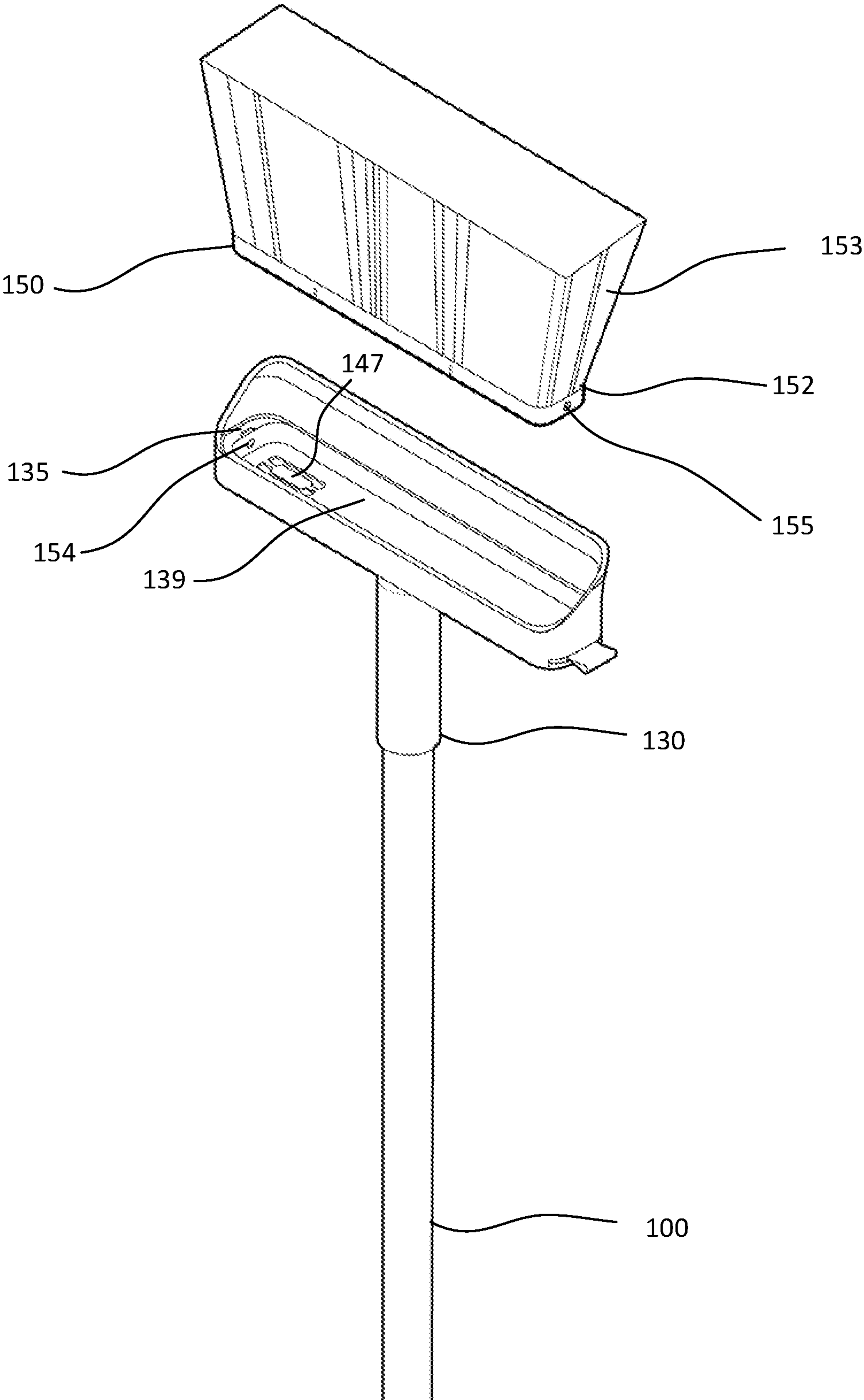


FIG. 15

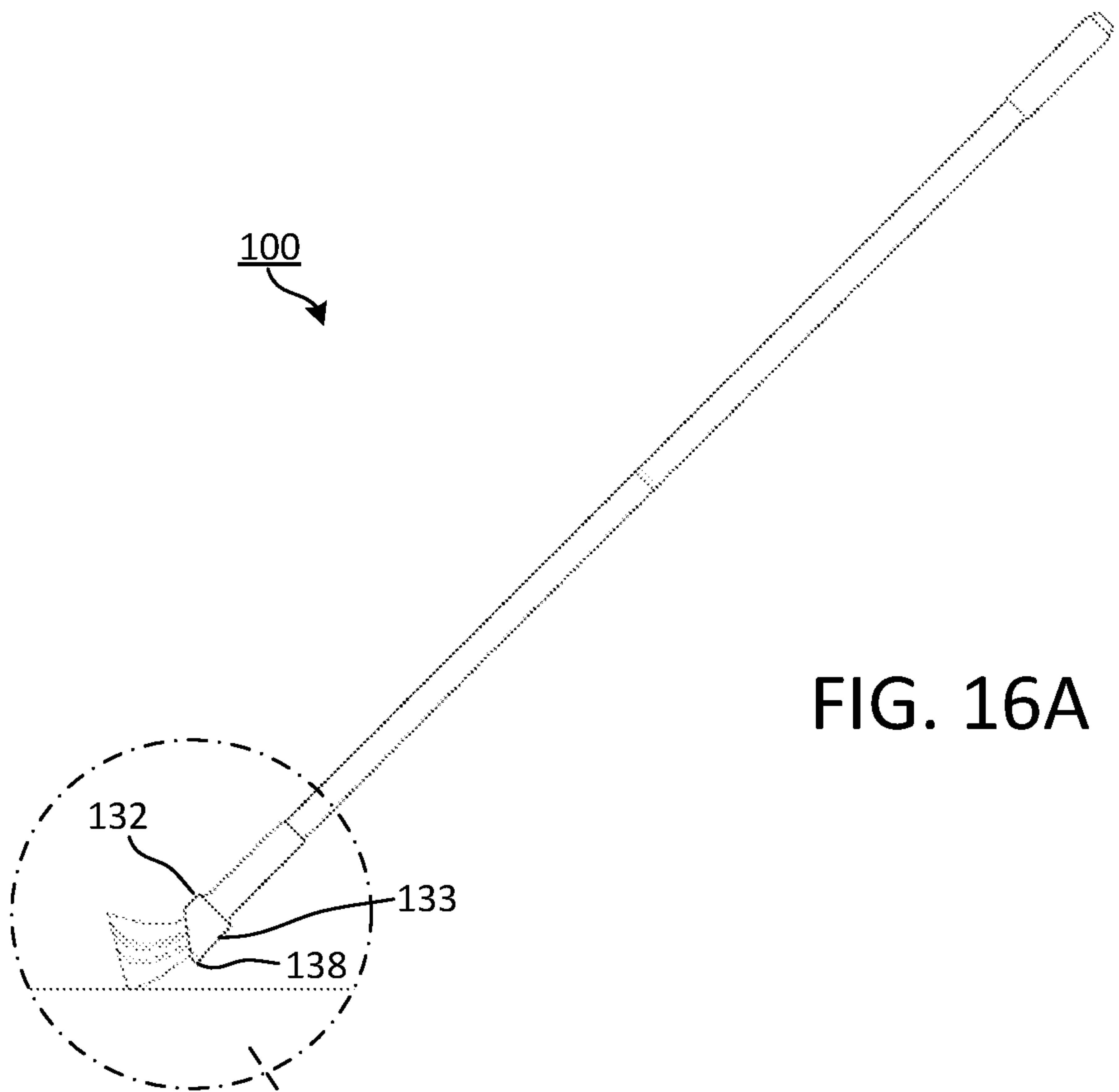


FIG. 16A

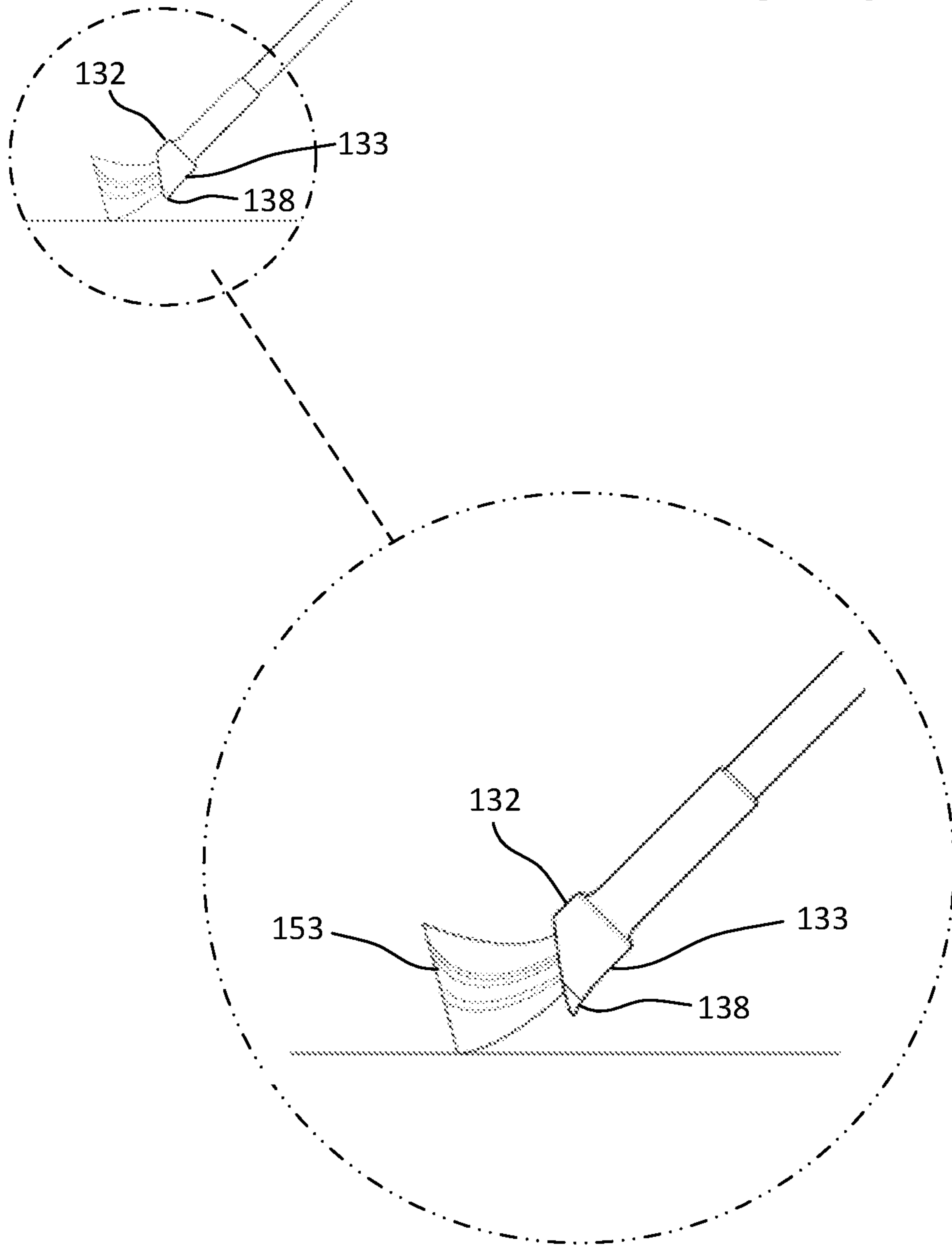


FIG. 16B

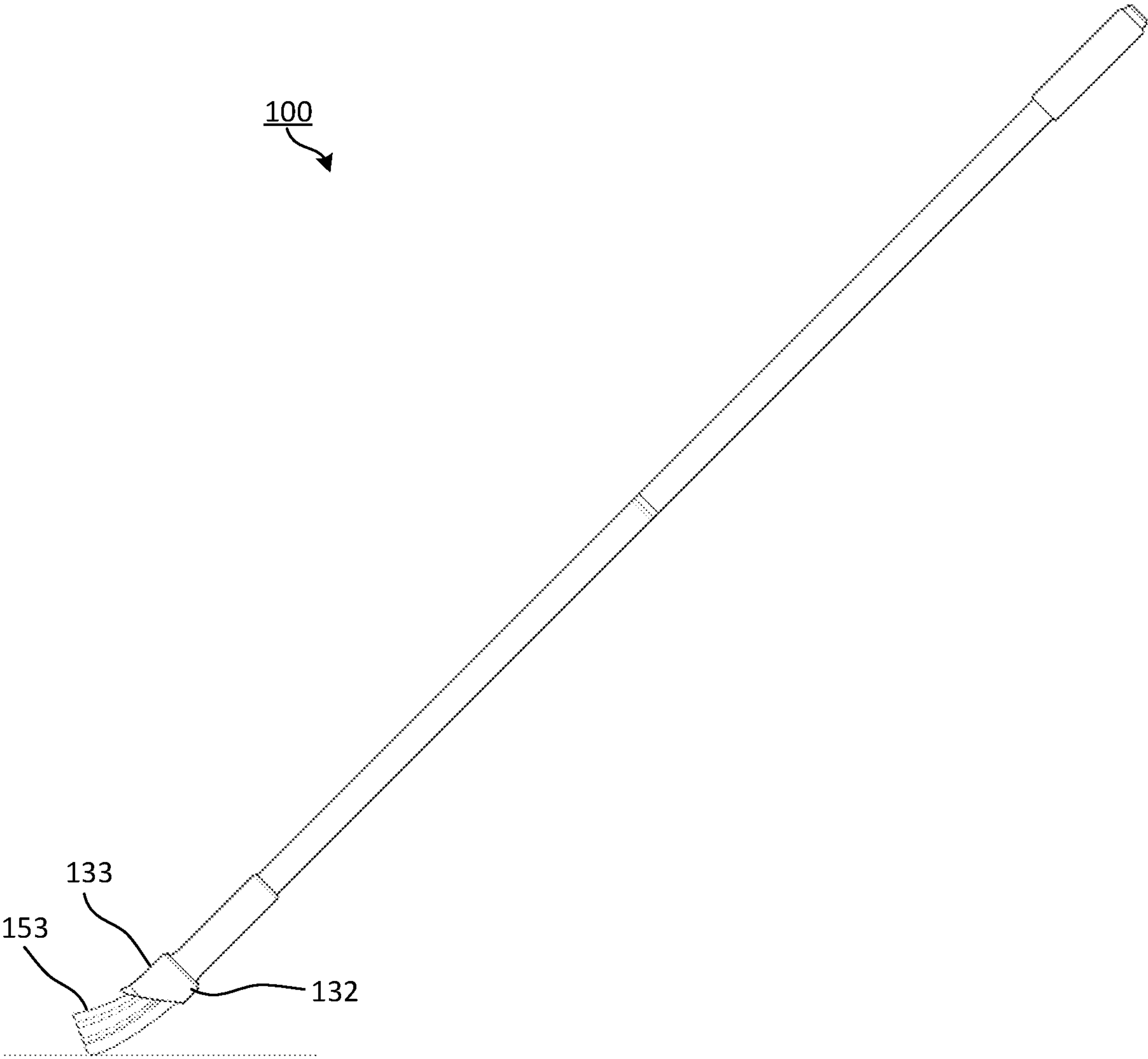


FIG. 17

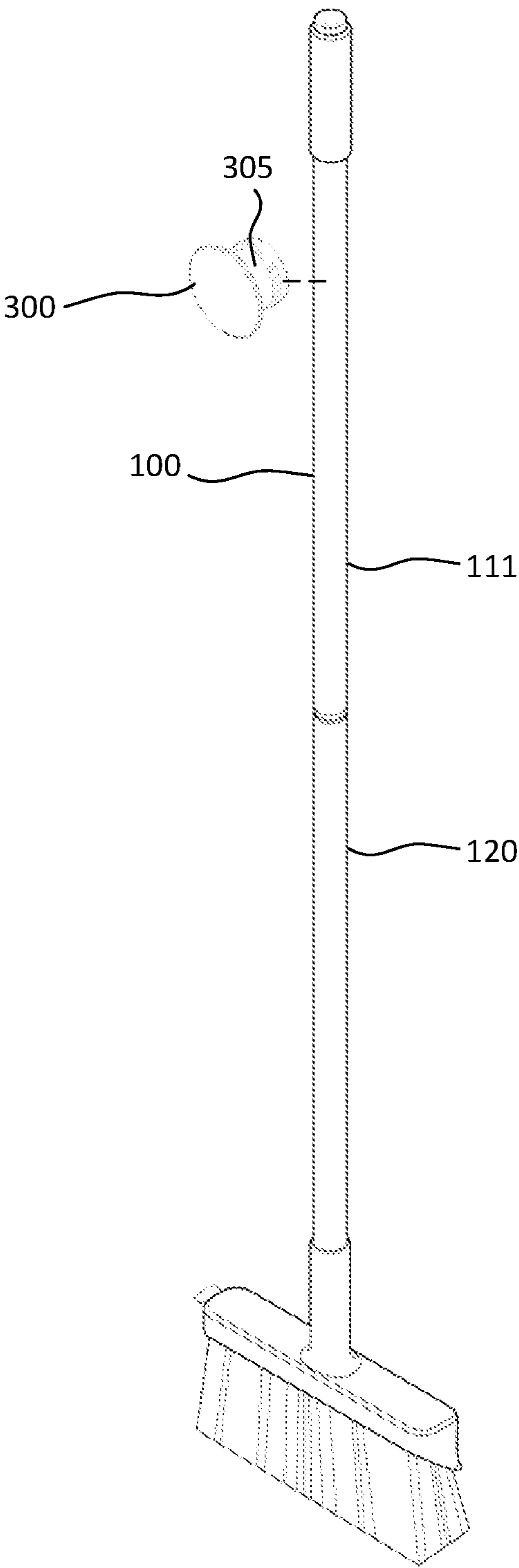


FIG. 18

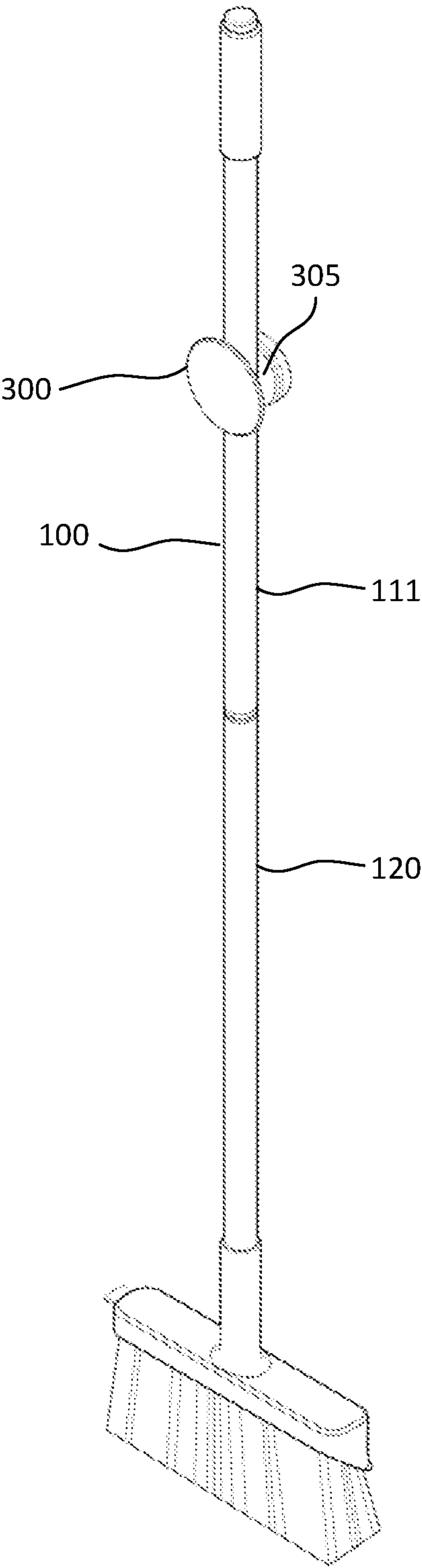


FIG. 19

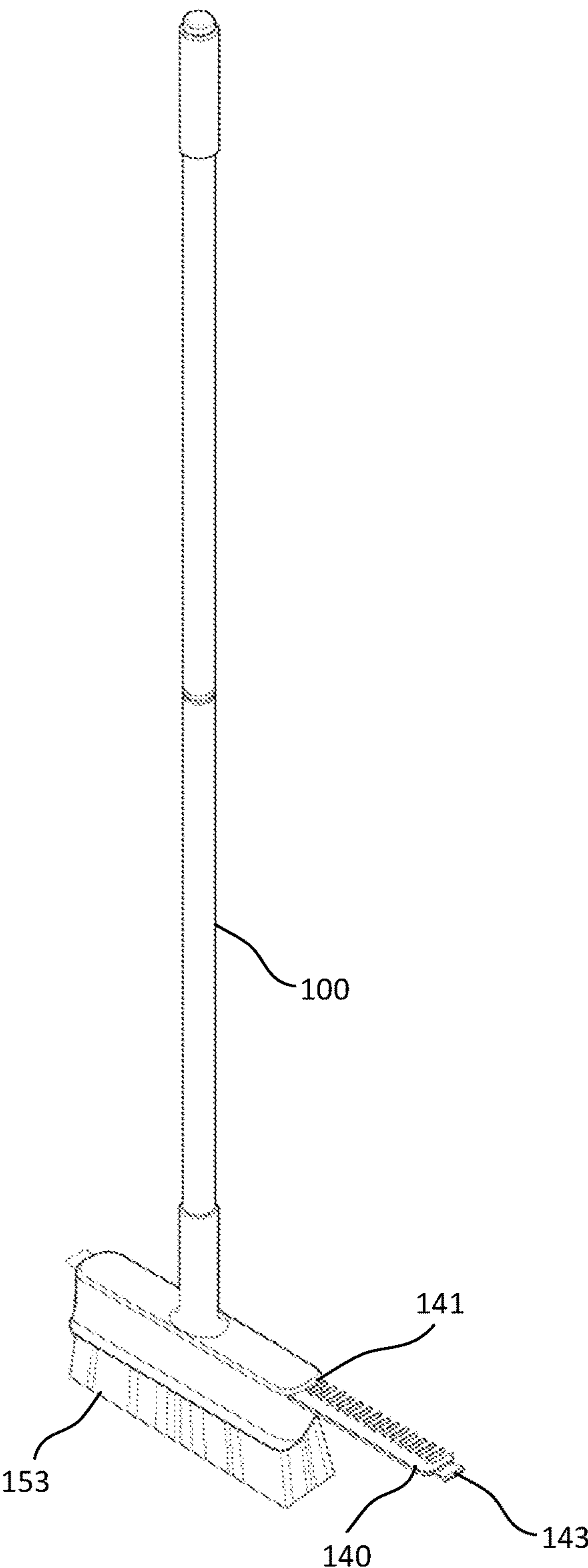


FIG. 20

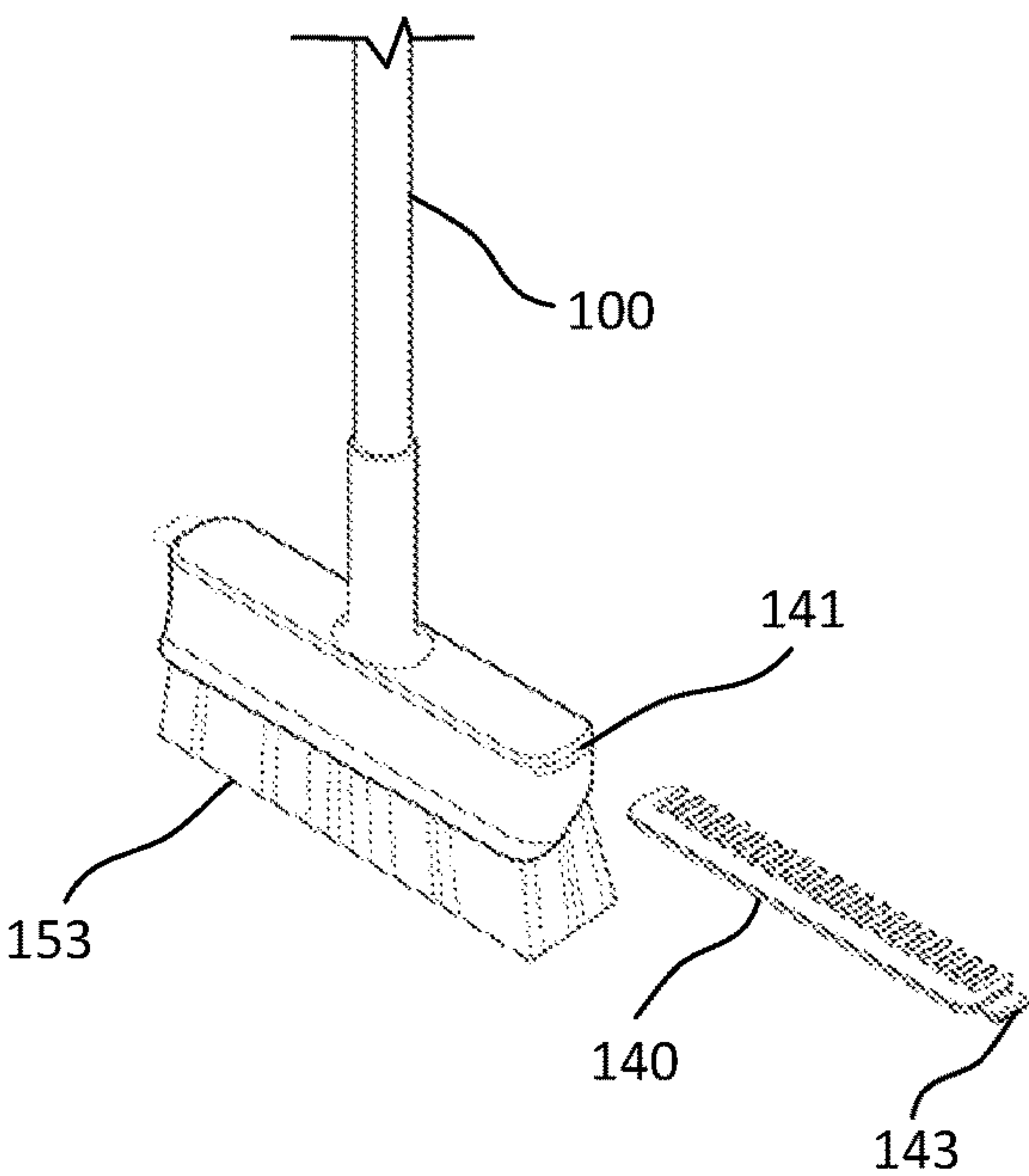


FIG. 21

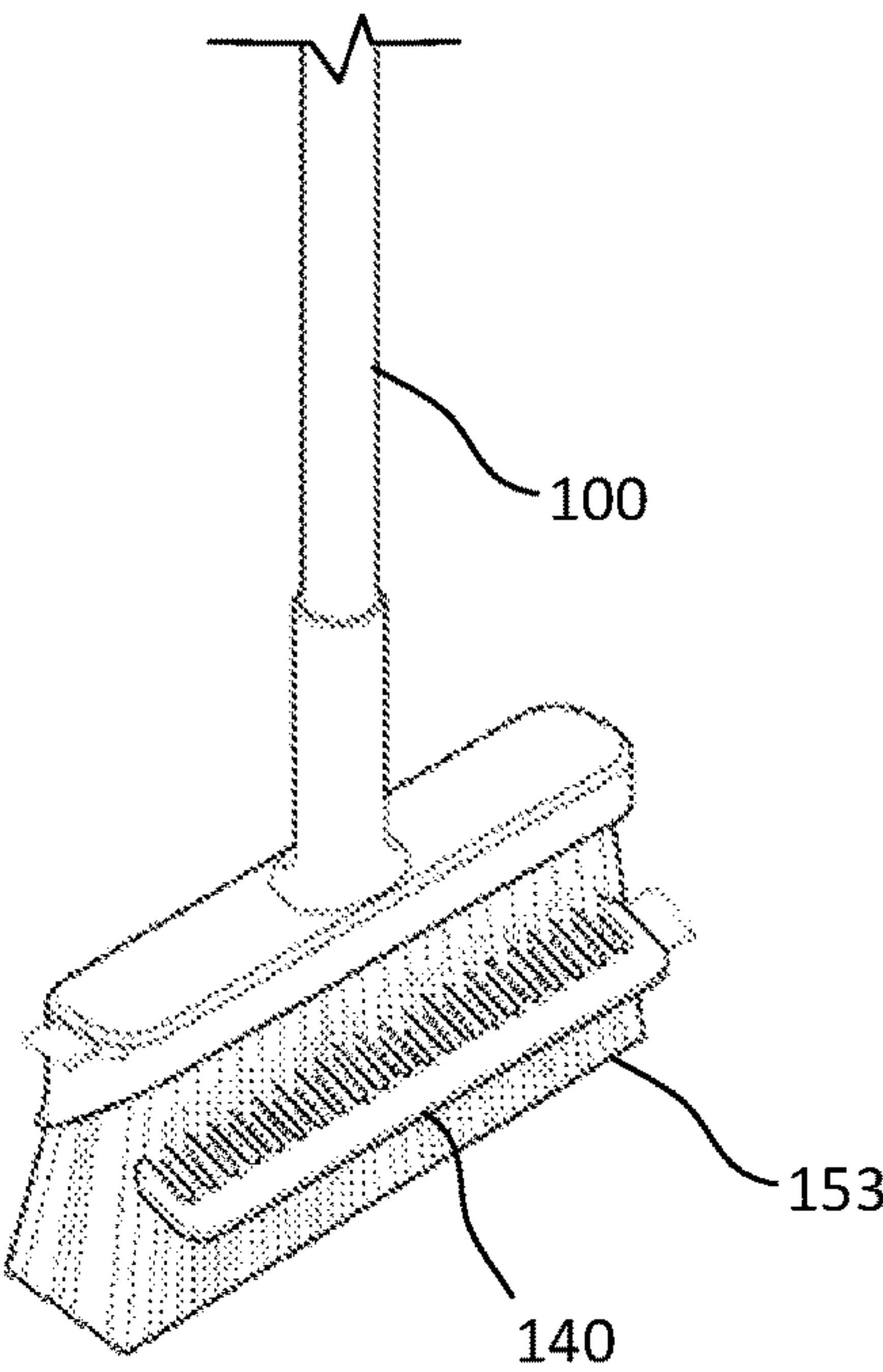
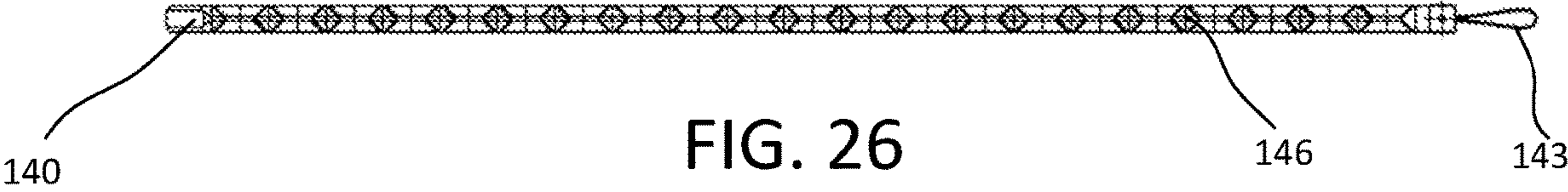
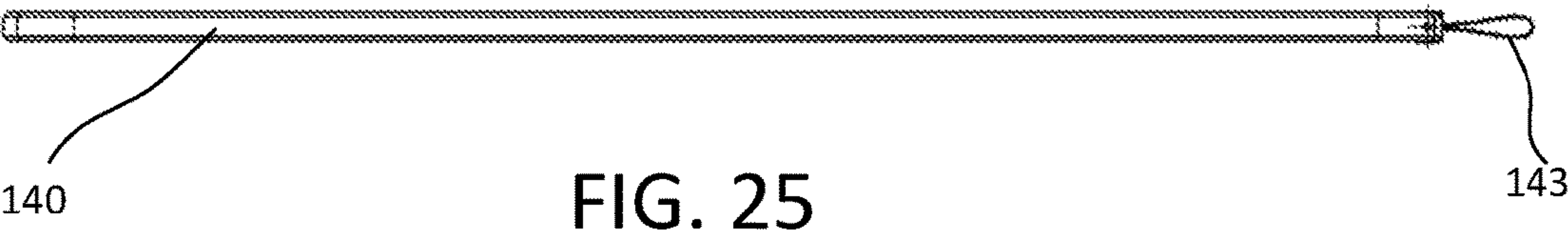
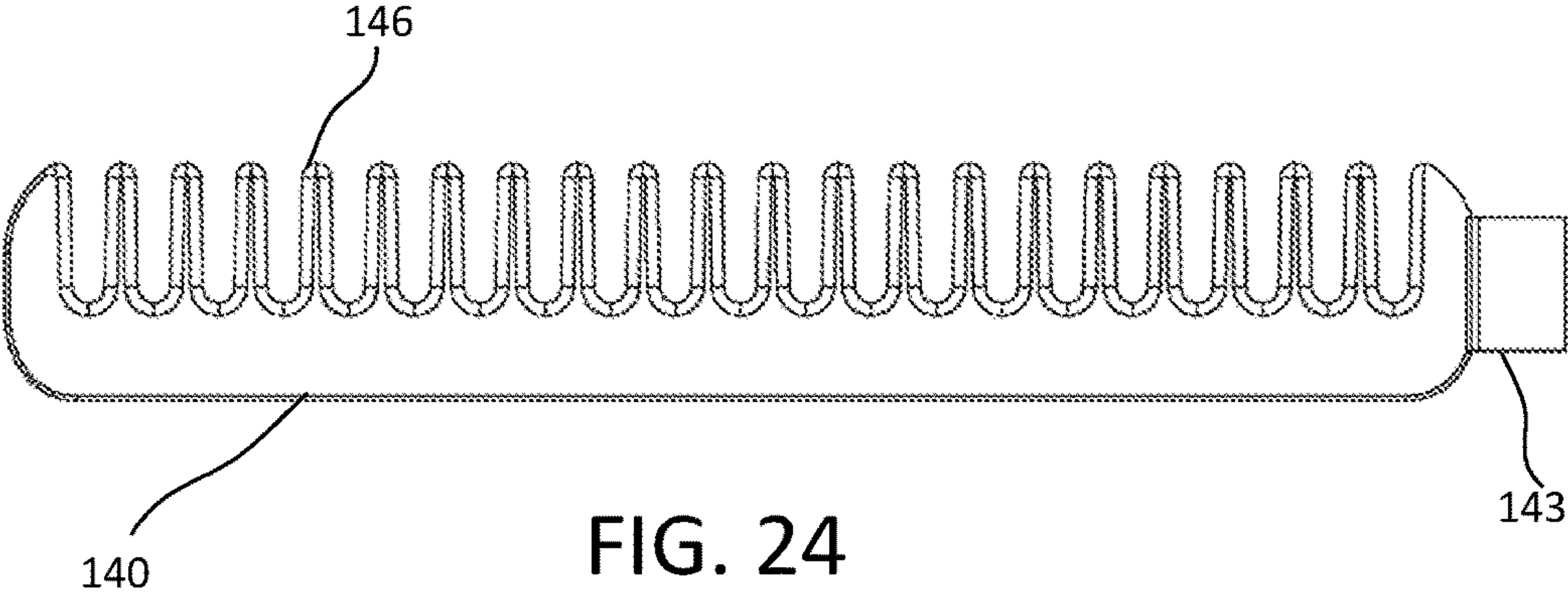
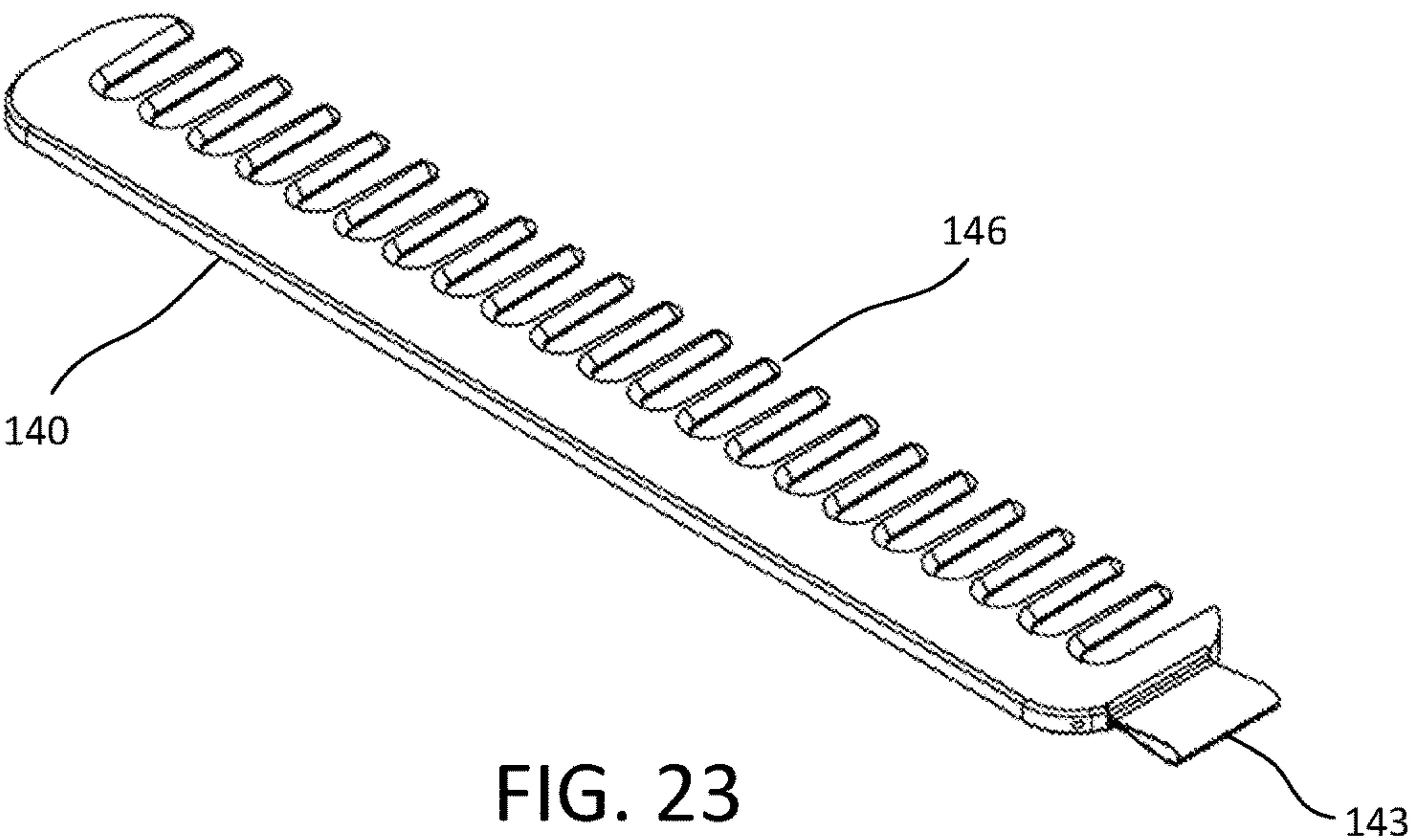


FIG. 22



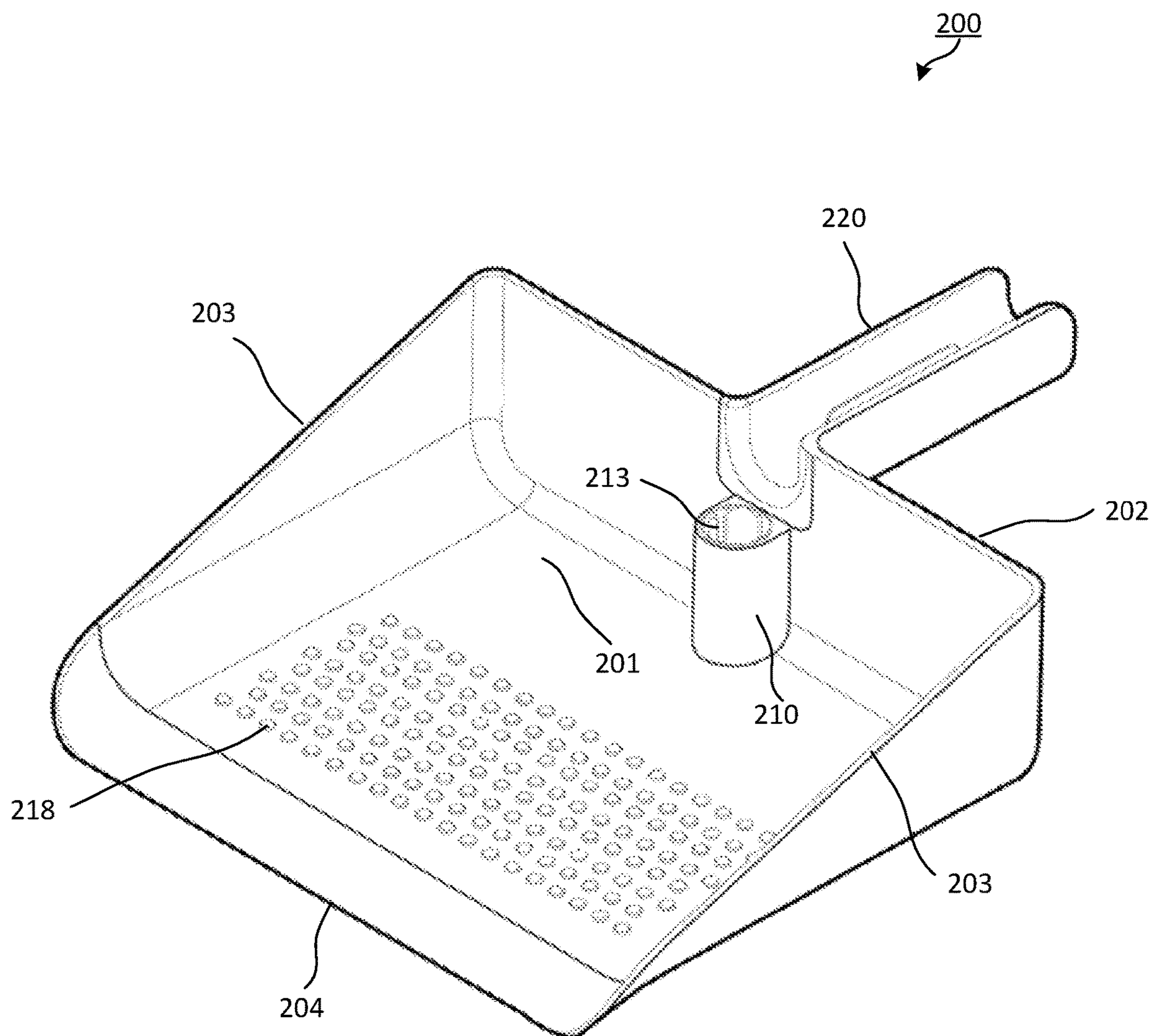


FIG. 27

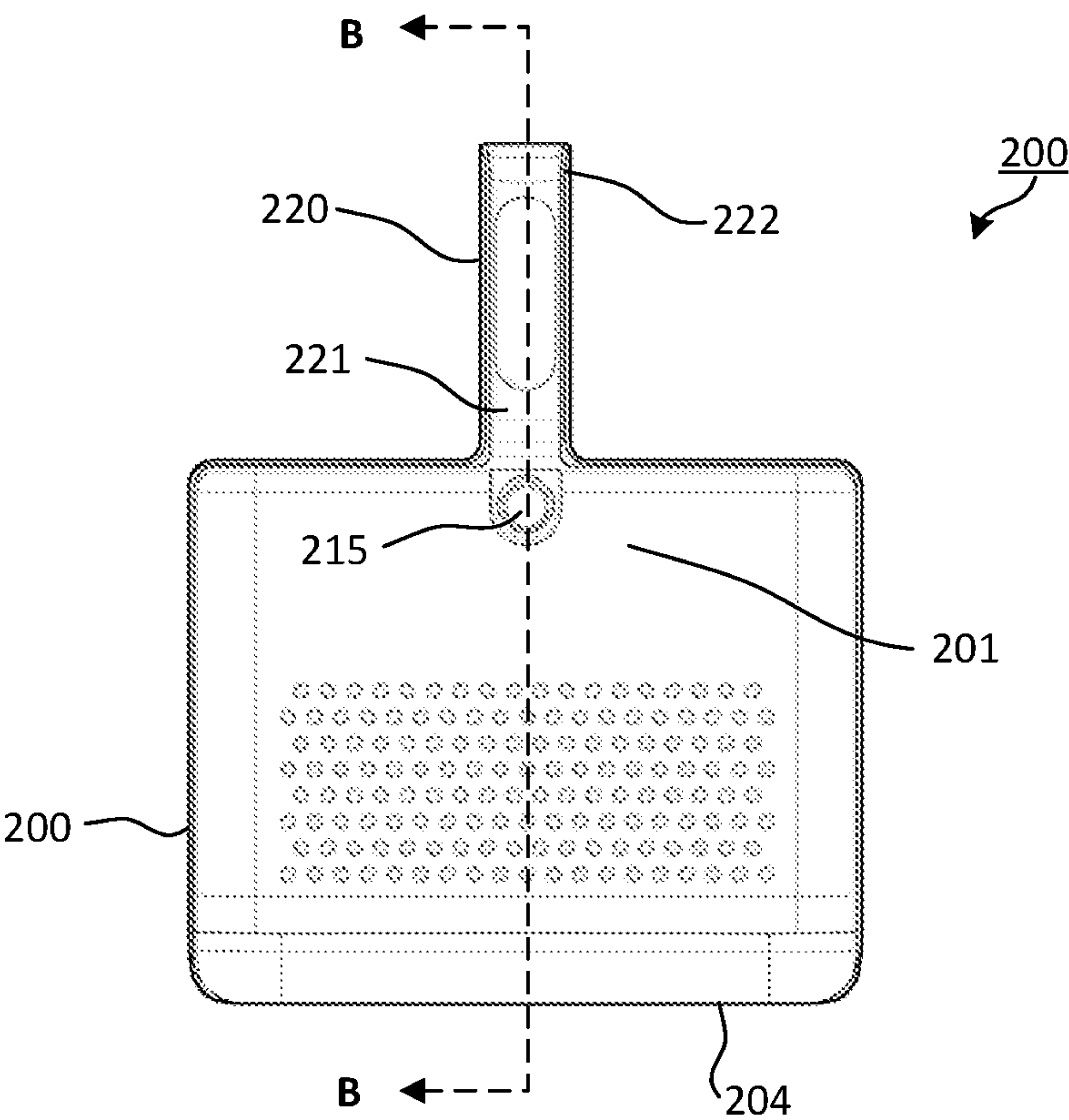


FIG. 28

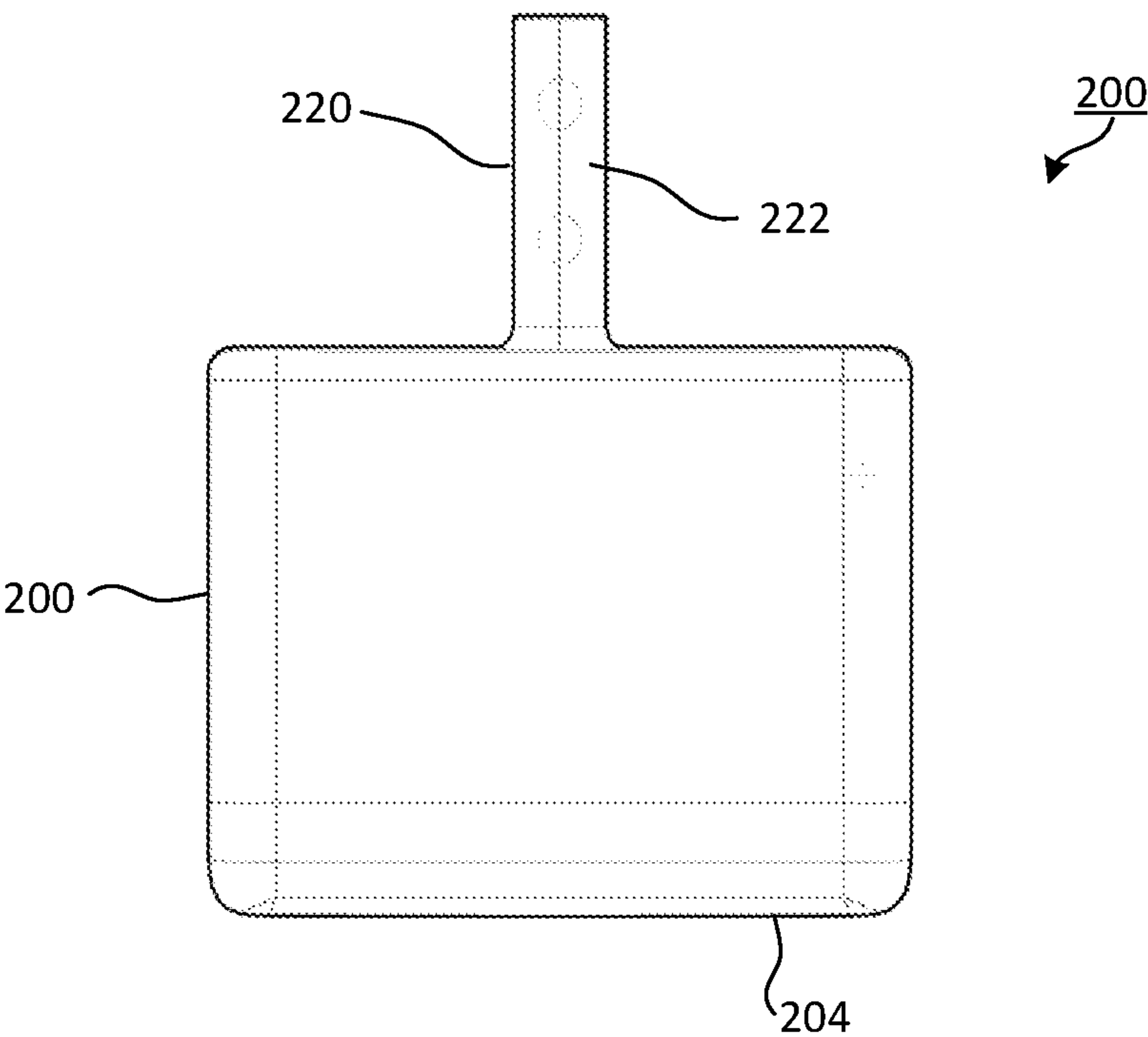


FIG. 29

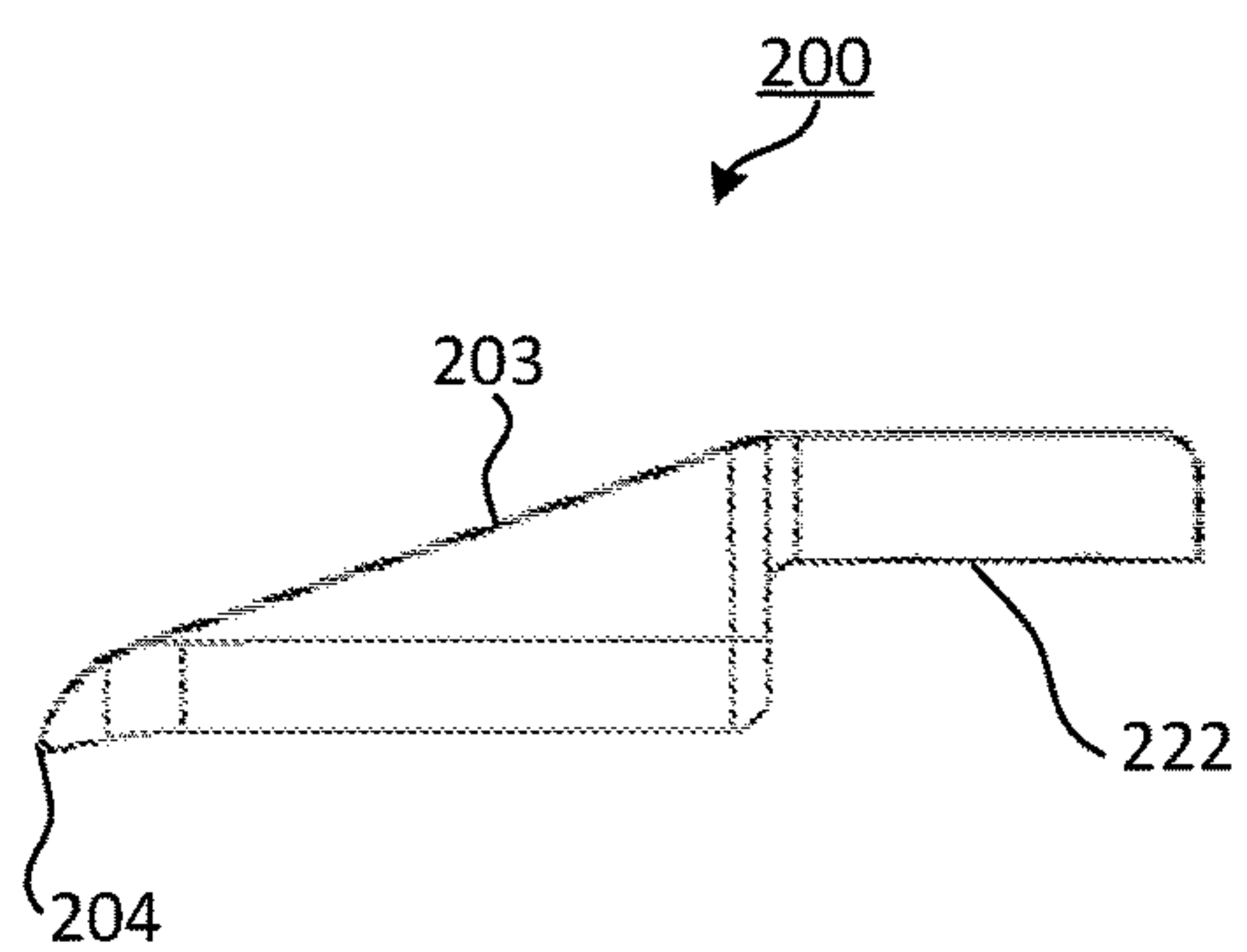


FIG. 30

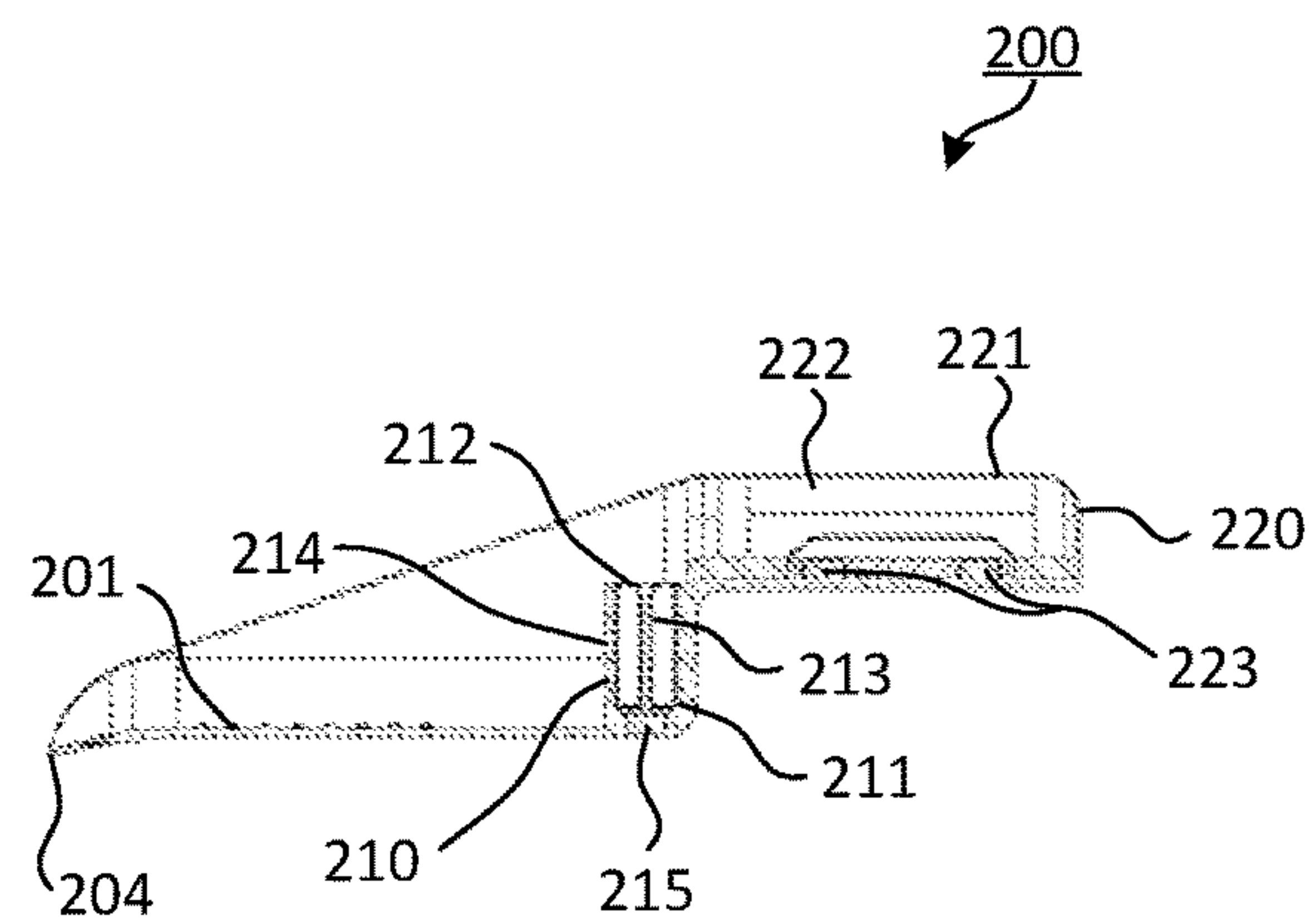


FIG. 31

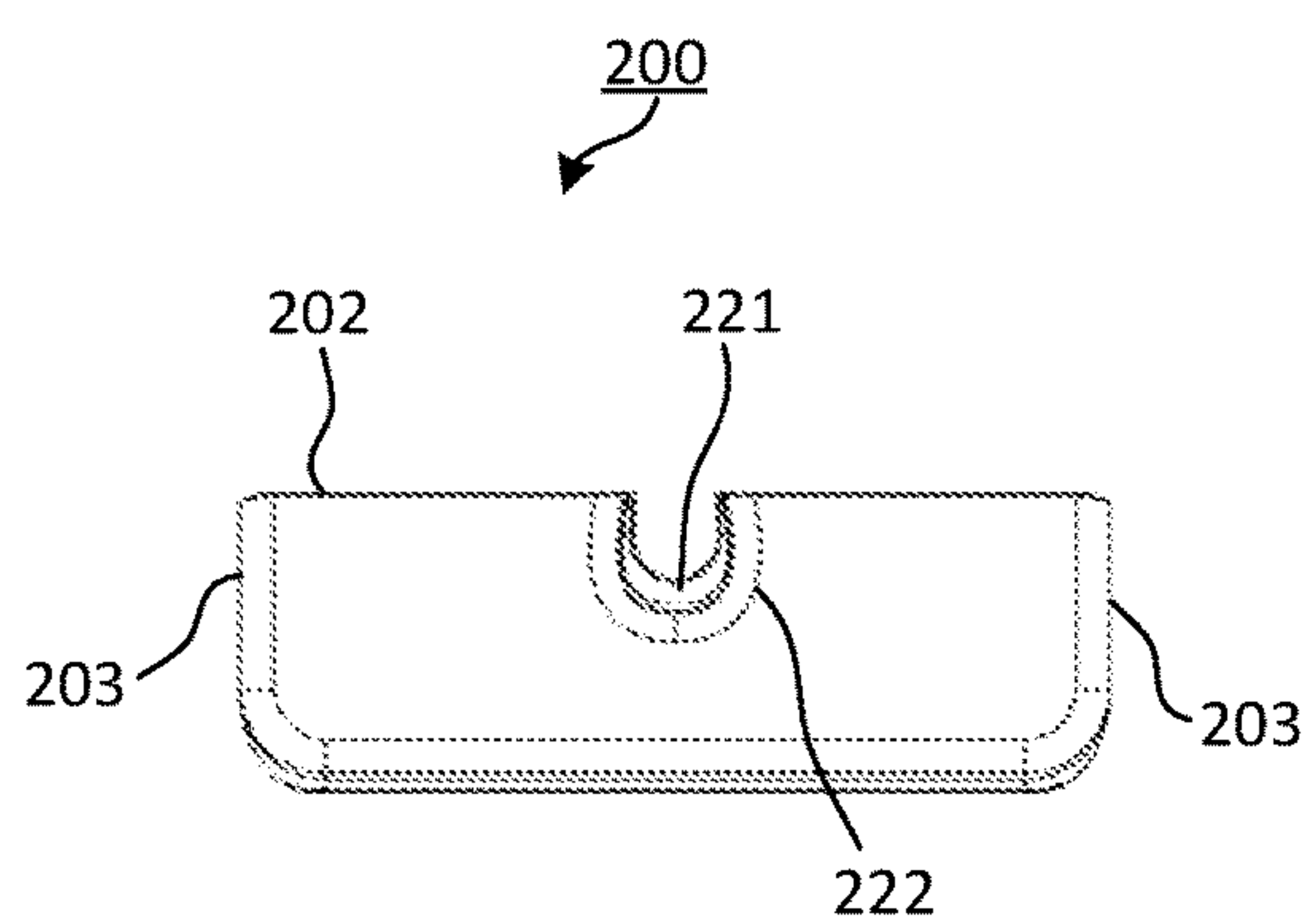


FIG. 32

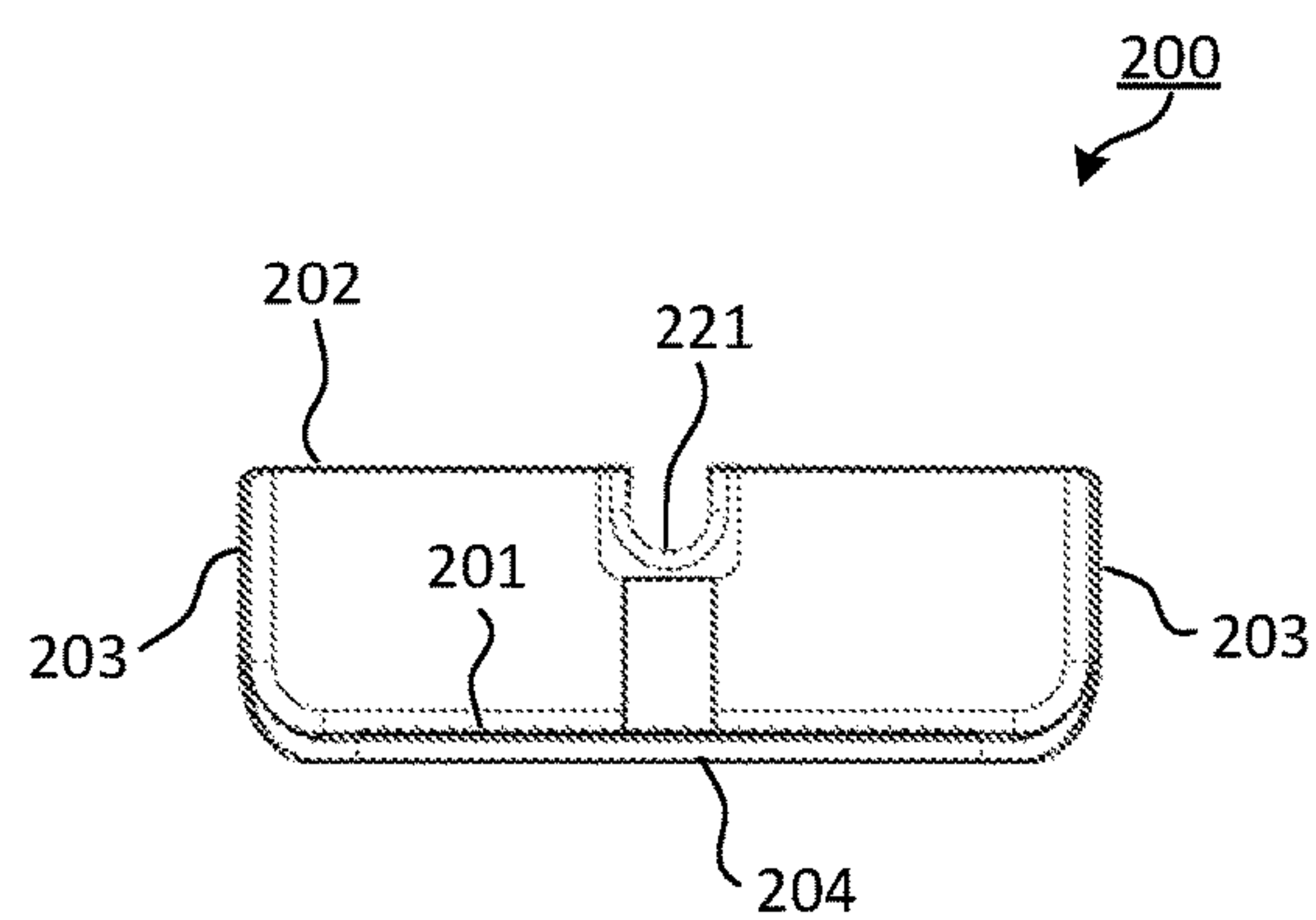


FIG. 33

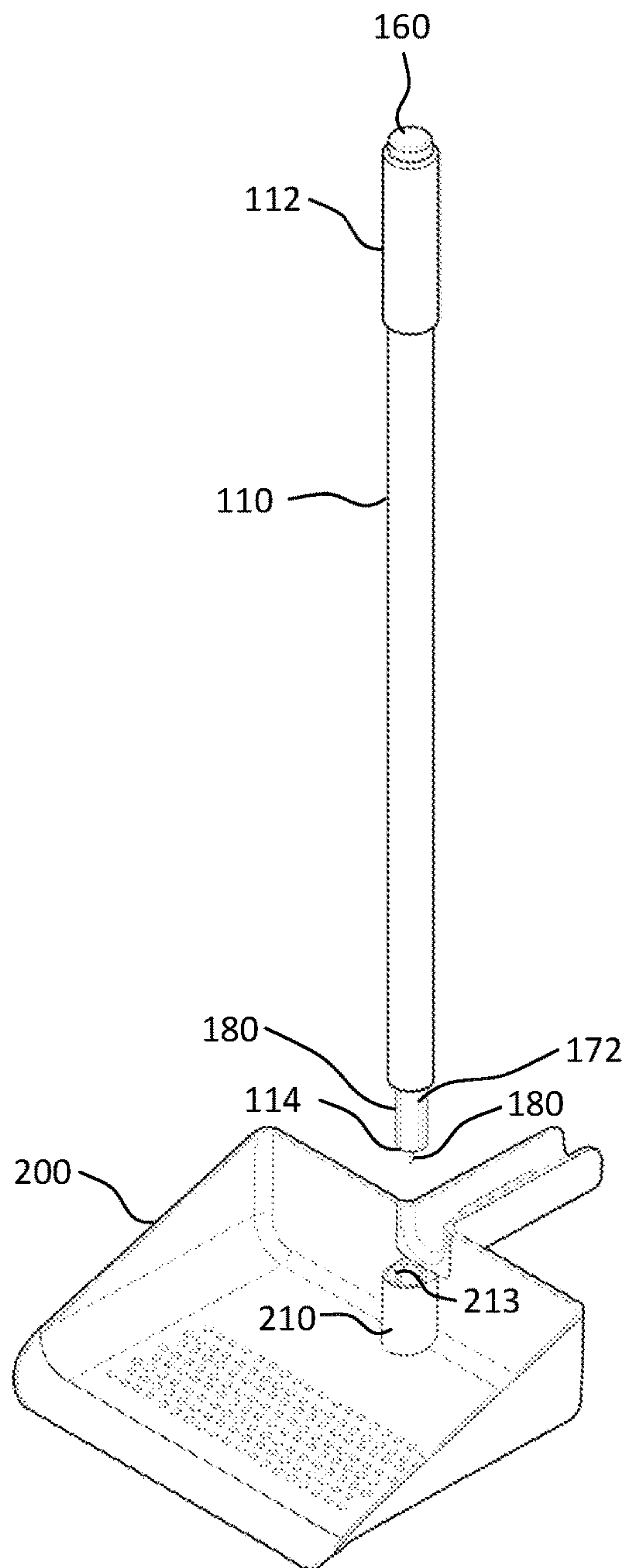


FIG. 34

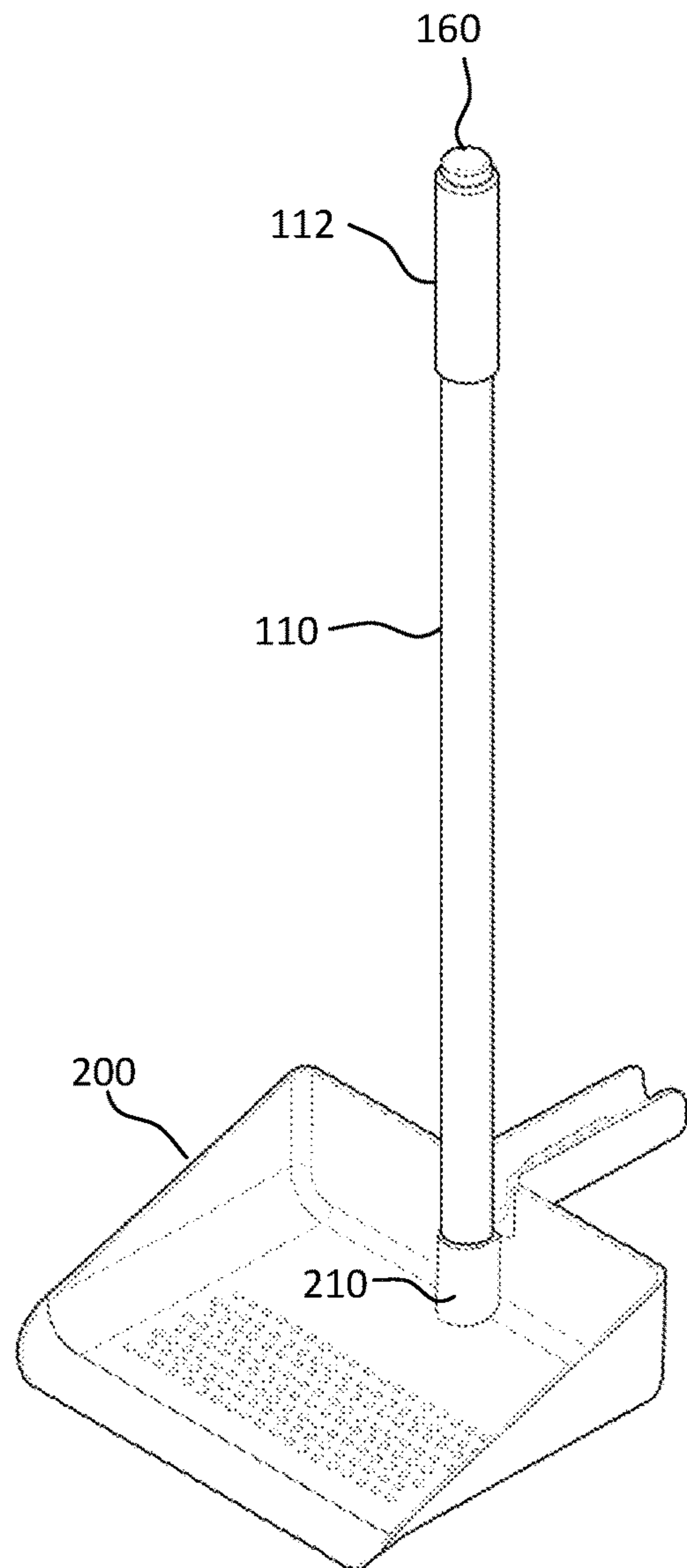


FIG. 35

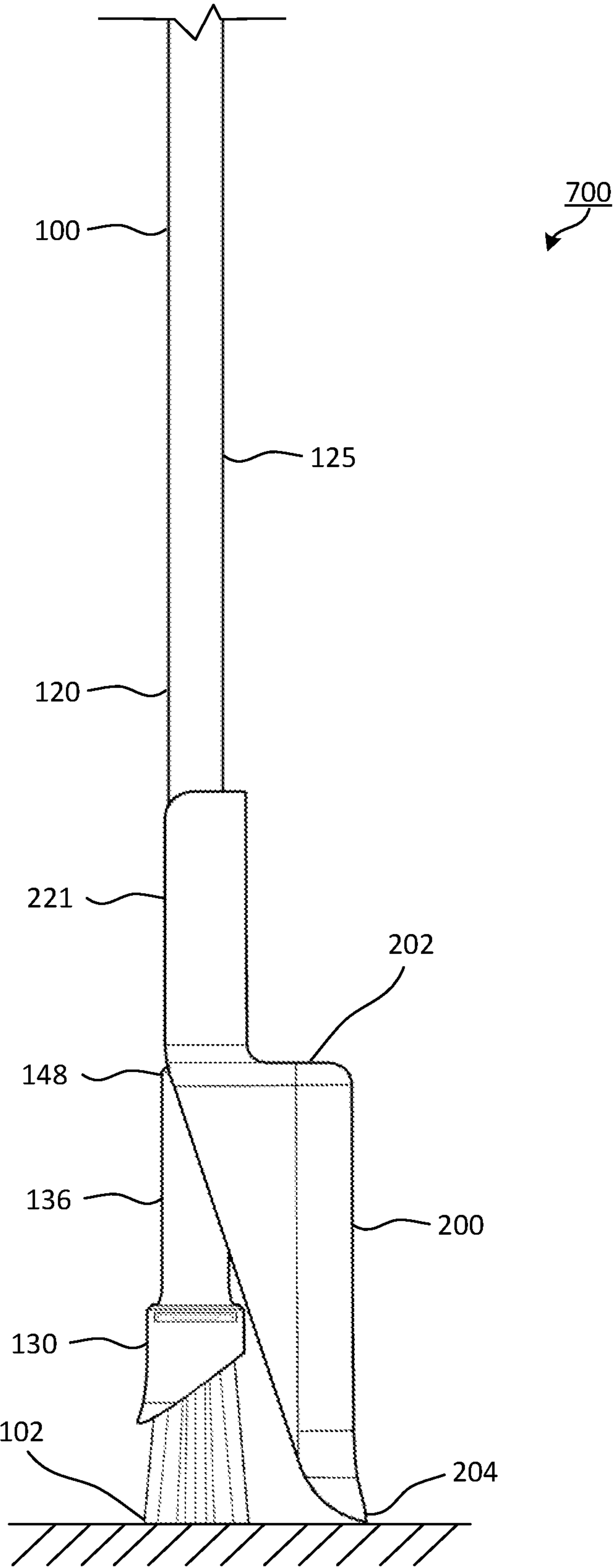


FIG. 36

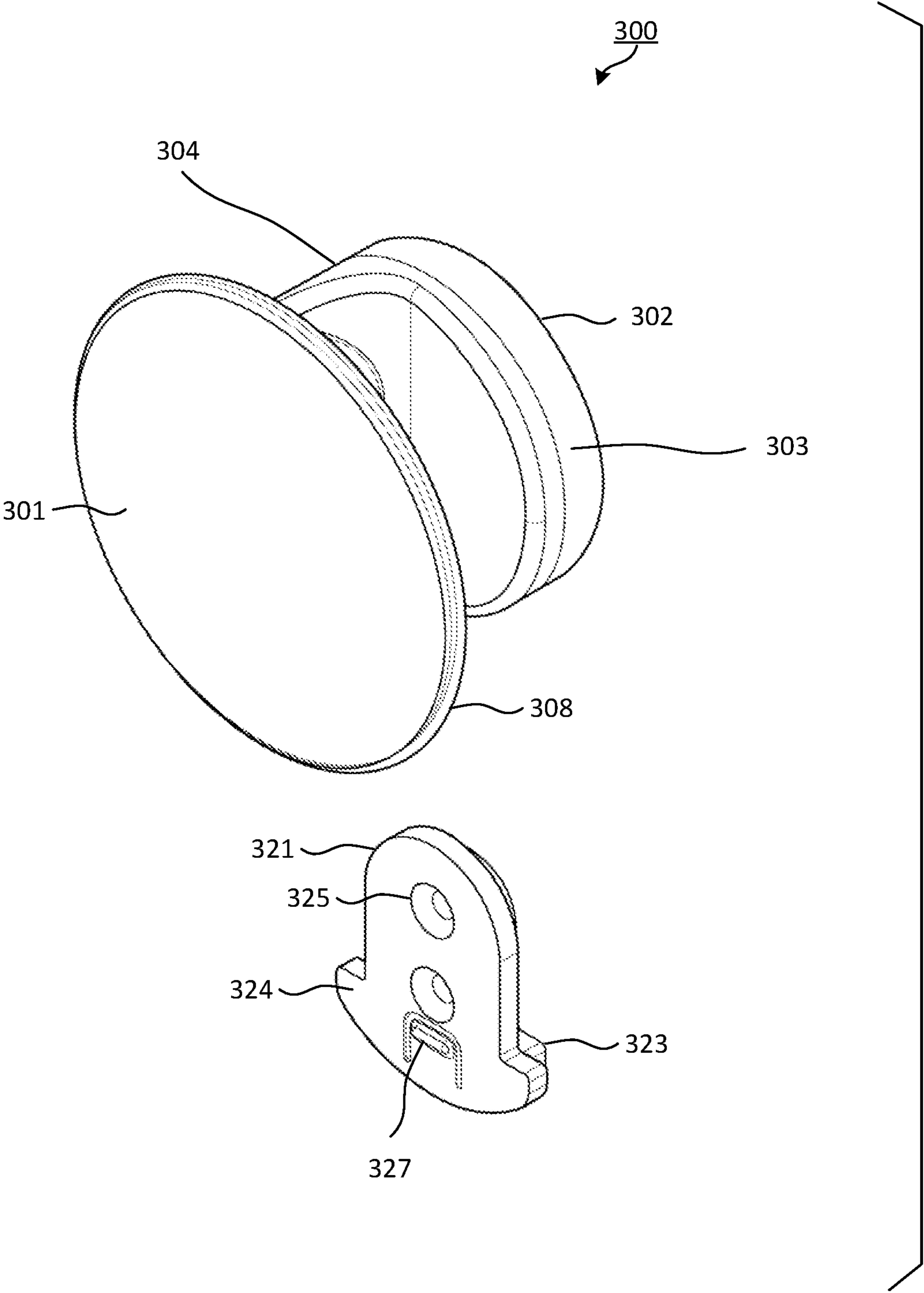


FIG. 37

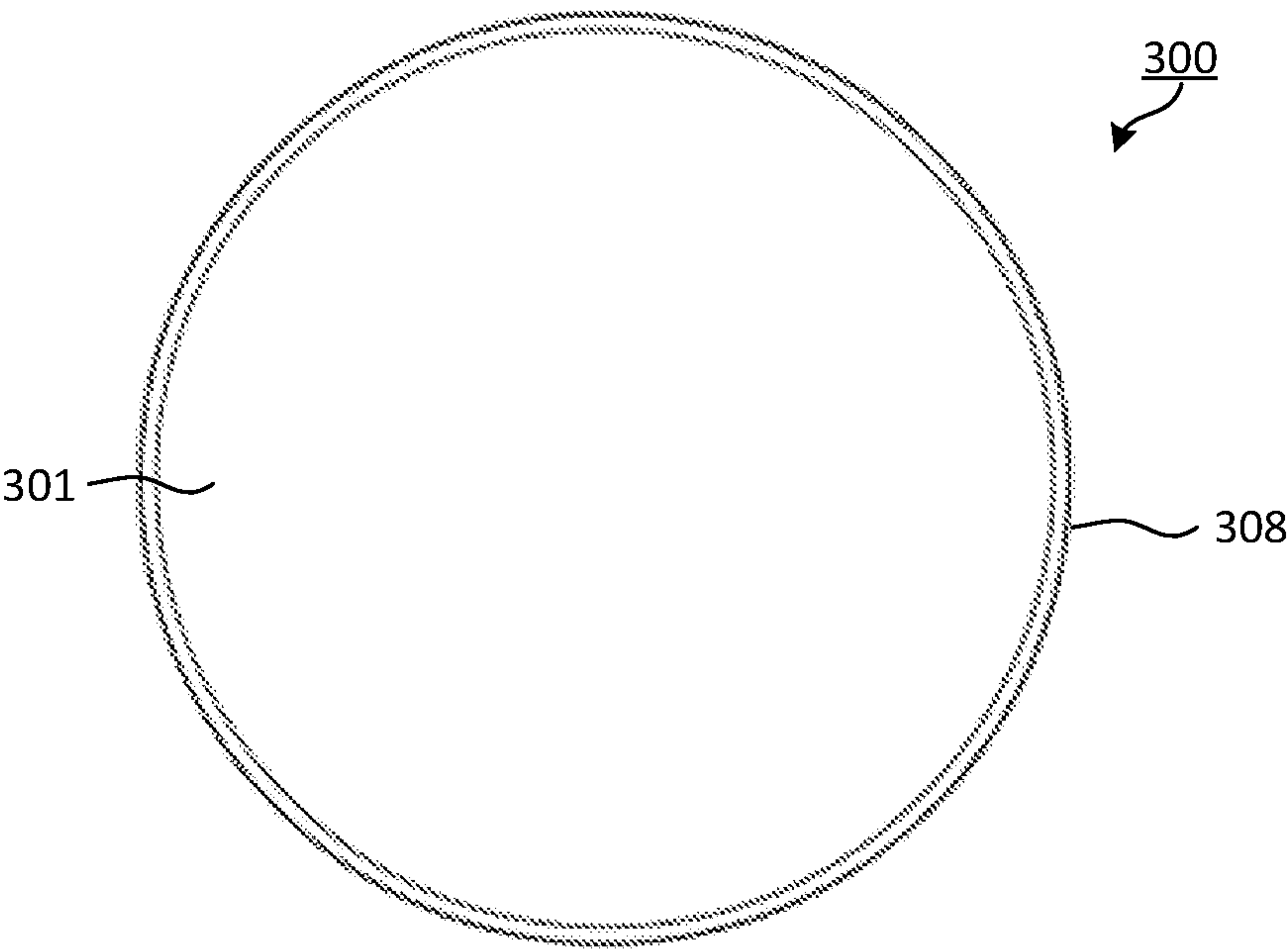


FIG. 38

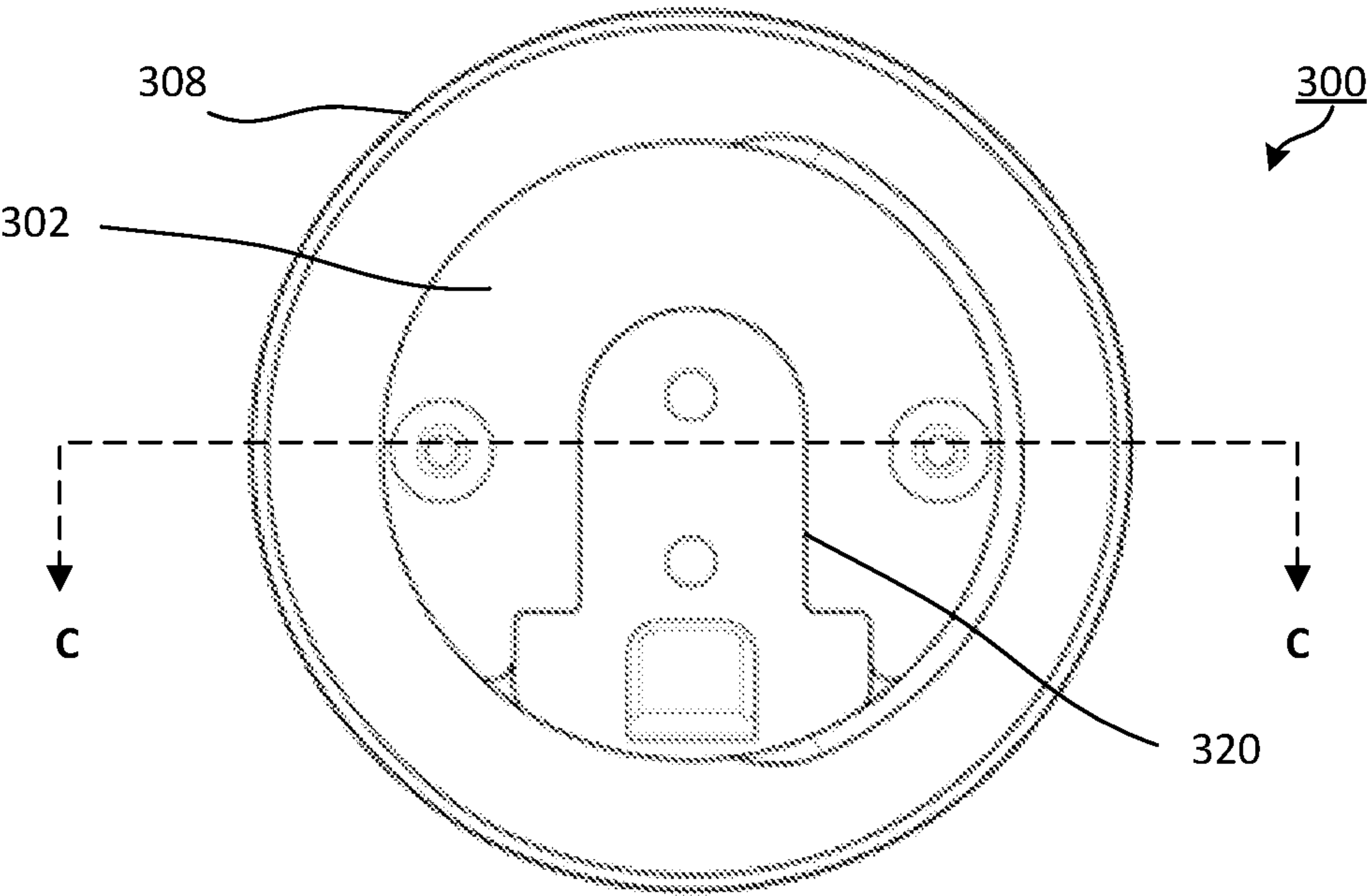


FIG. 39

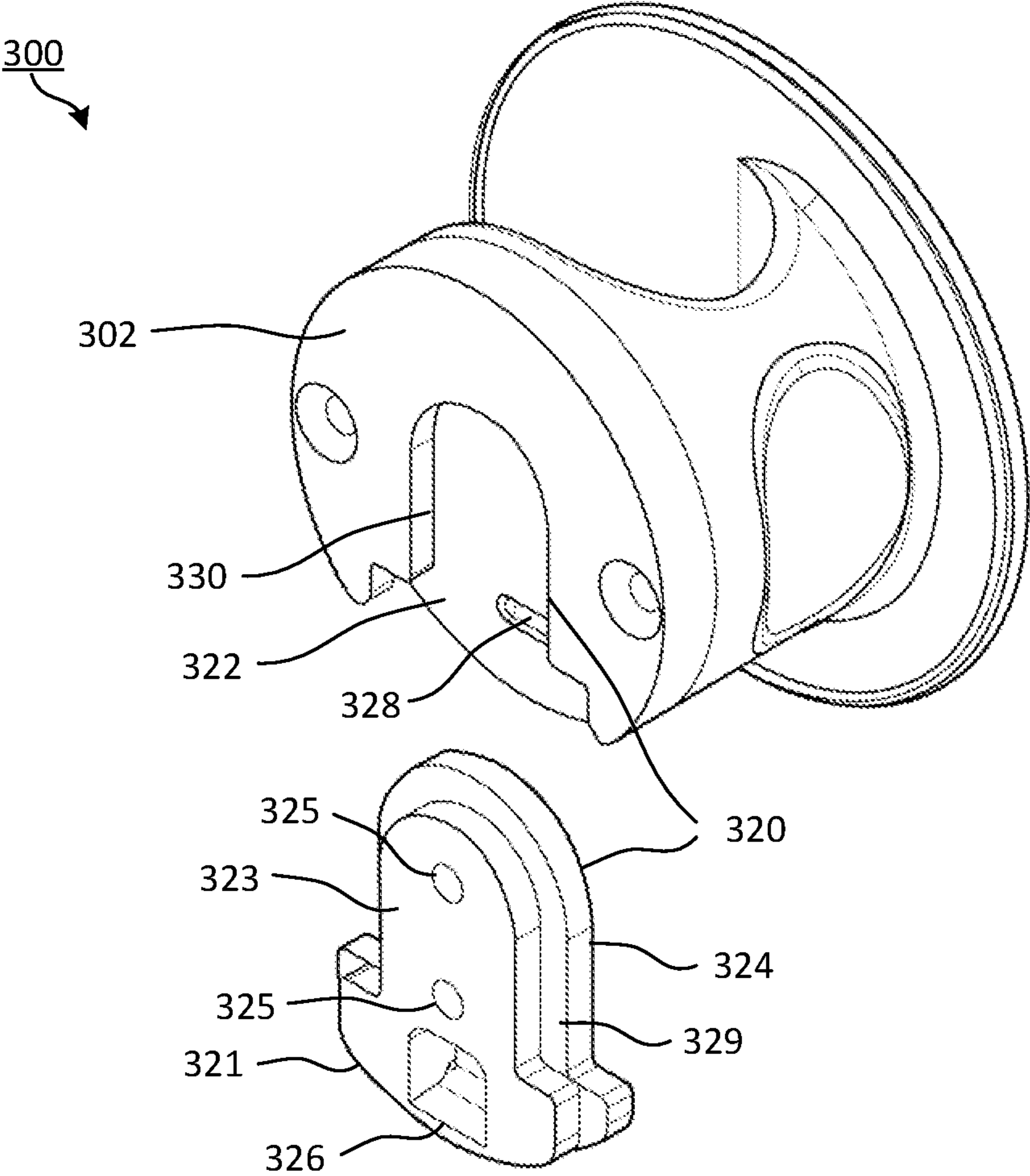


FIG. 40

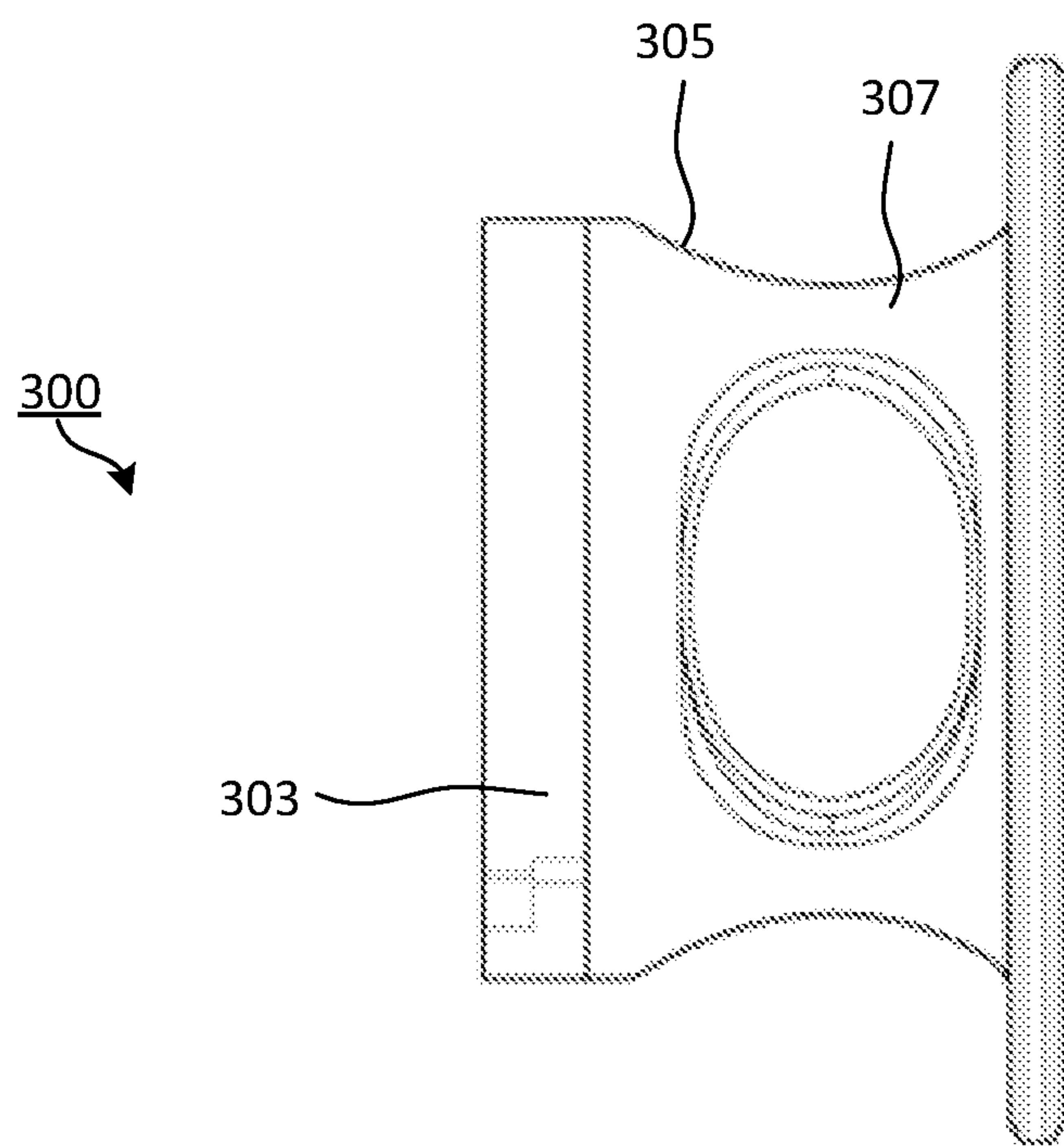


FIG. 41

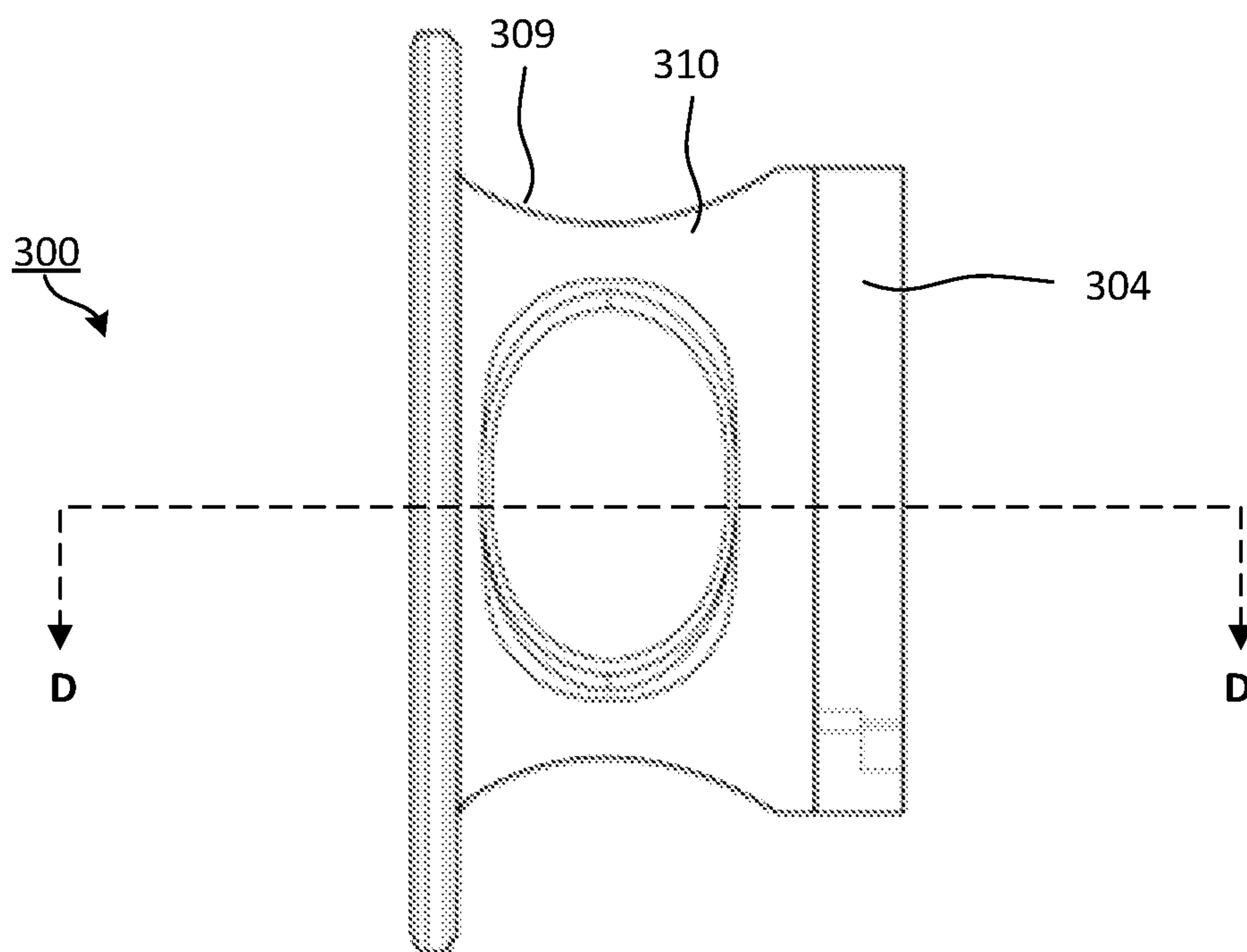


FIG. 42

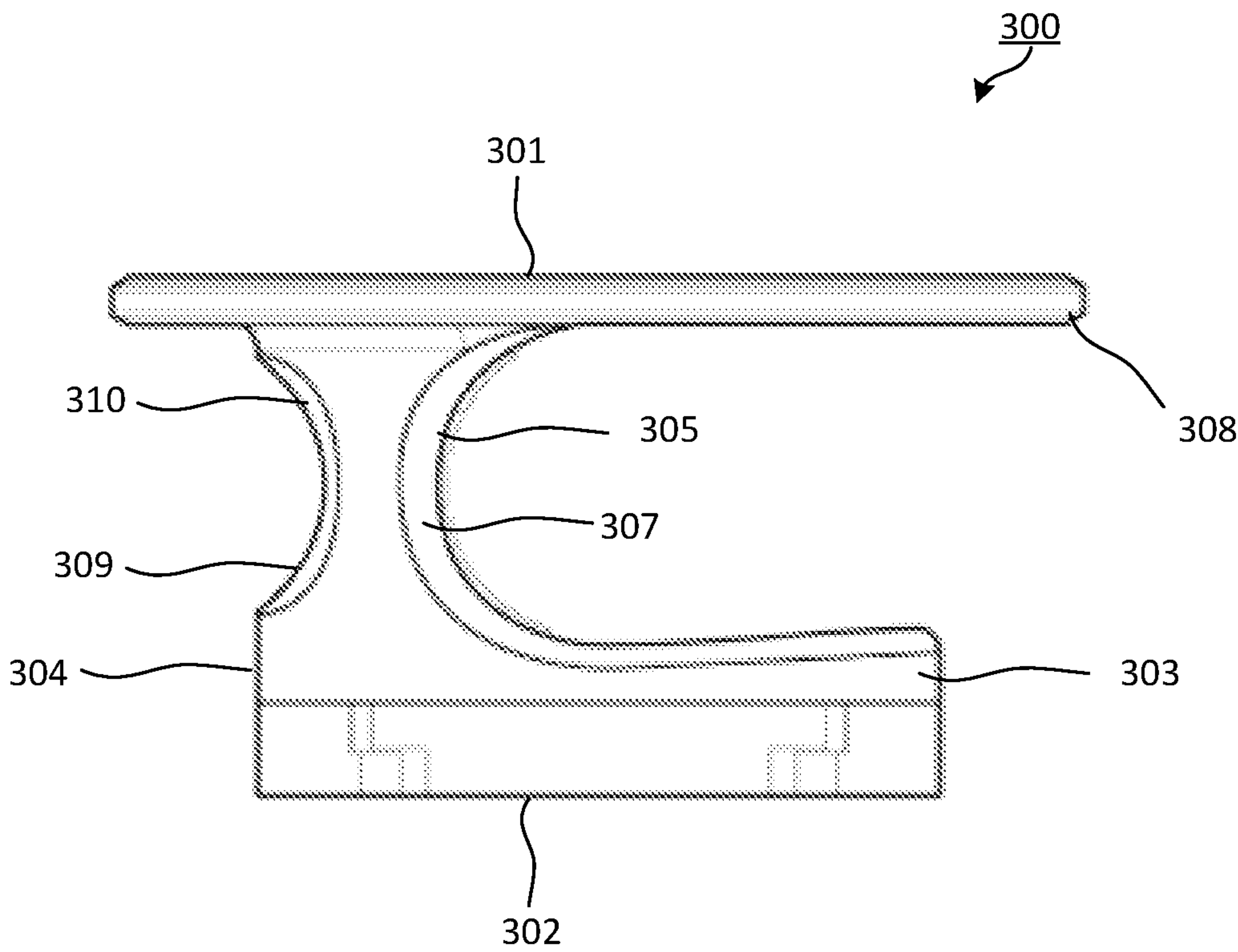


FIG. 43

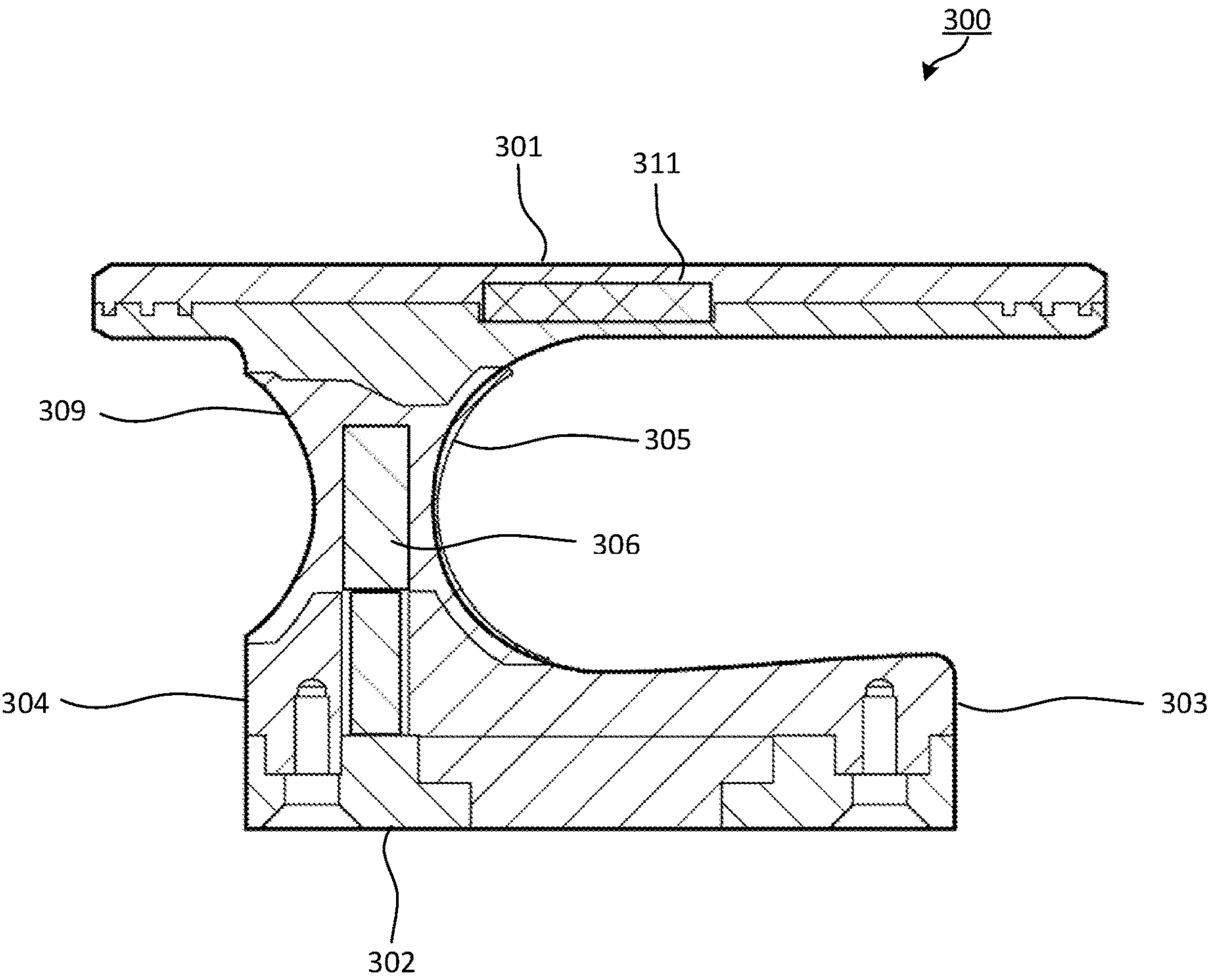


FIG. 44

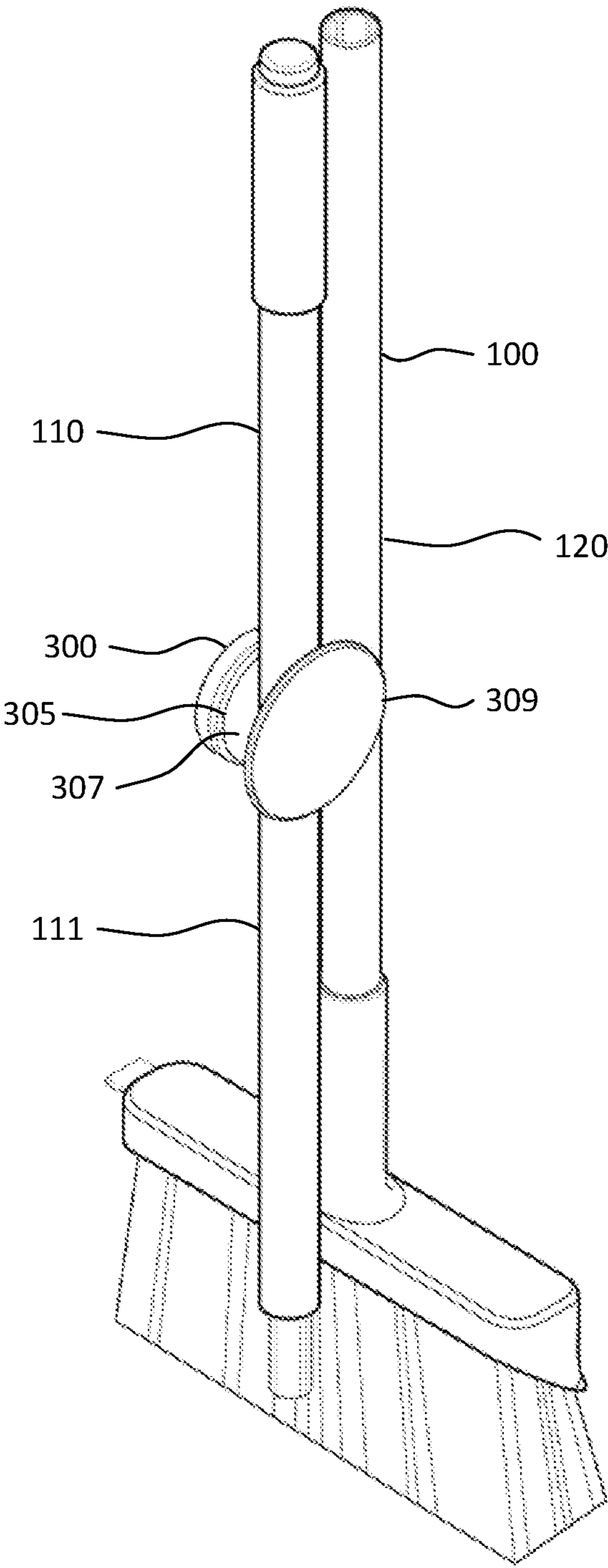


FIG. 45

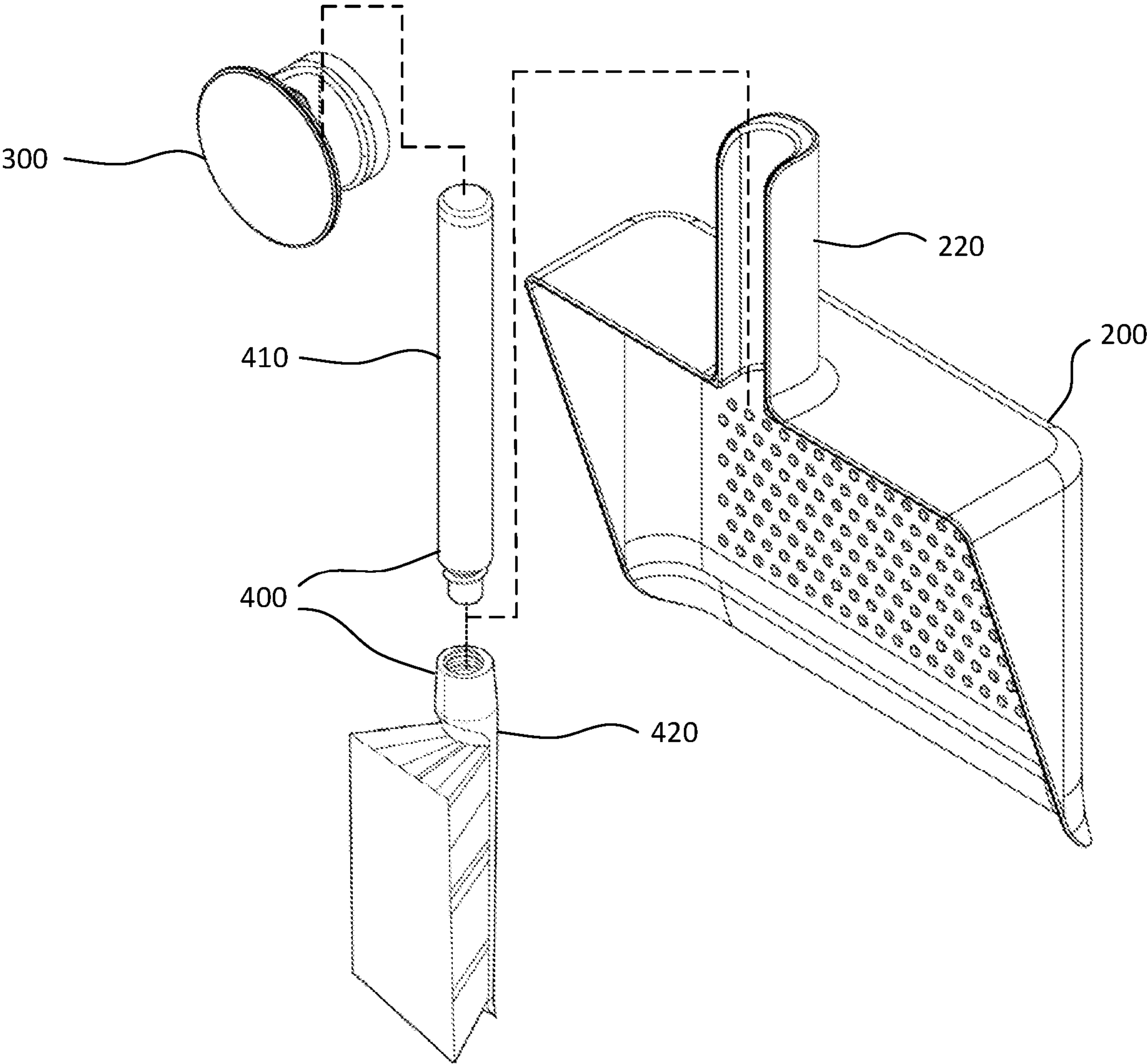


FIG. 46

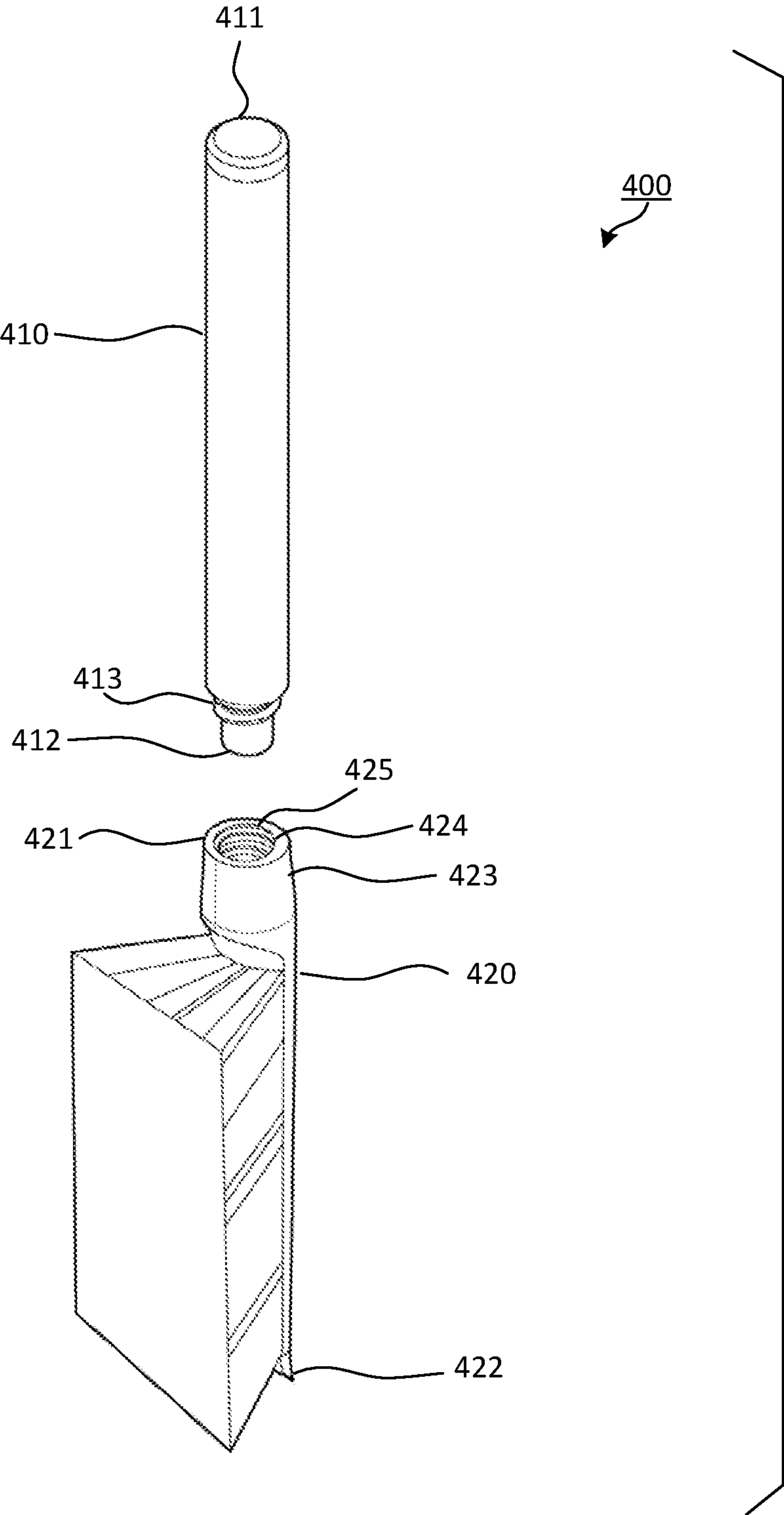


FIG. 47

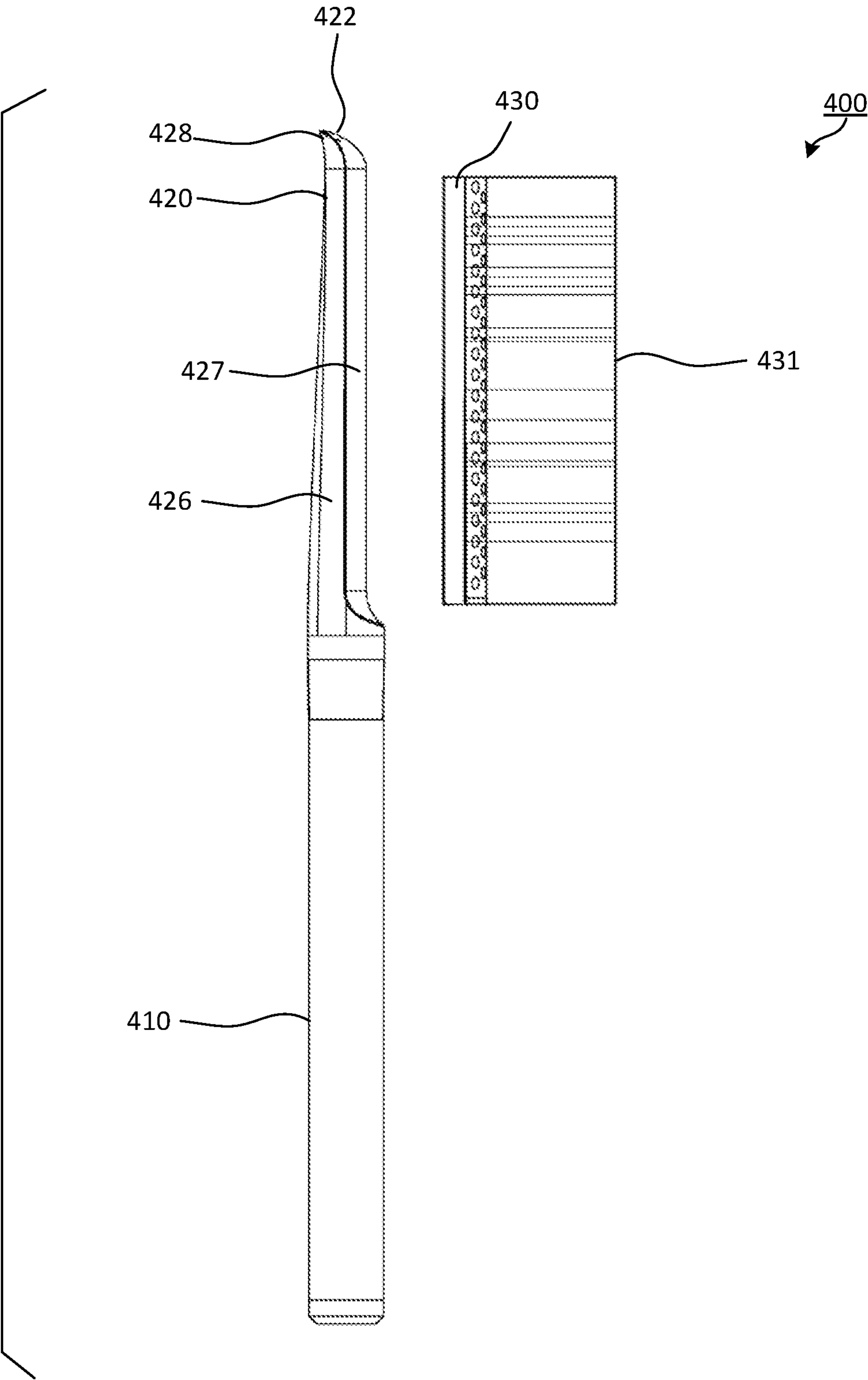


FIG. 48

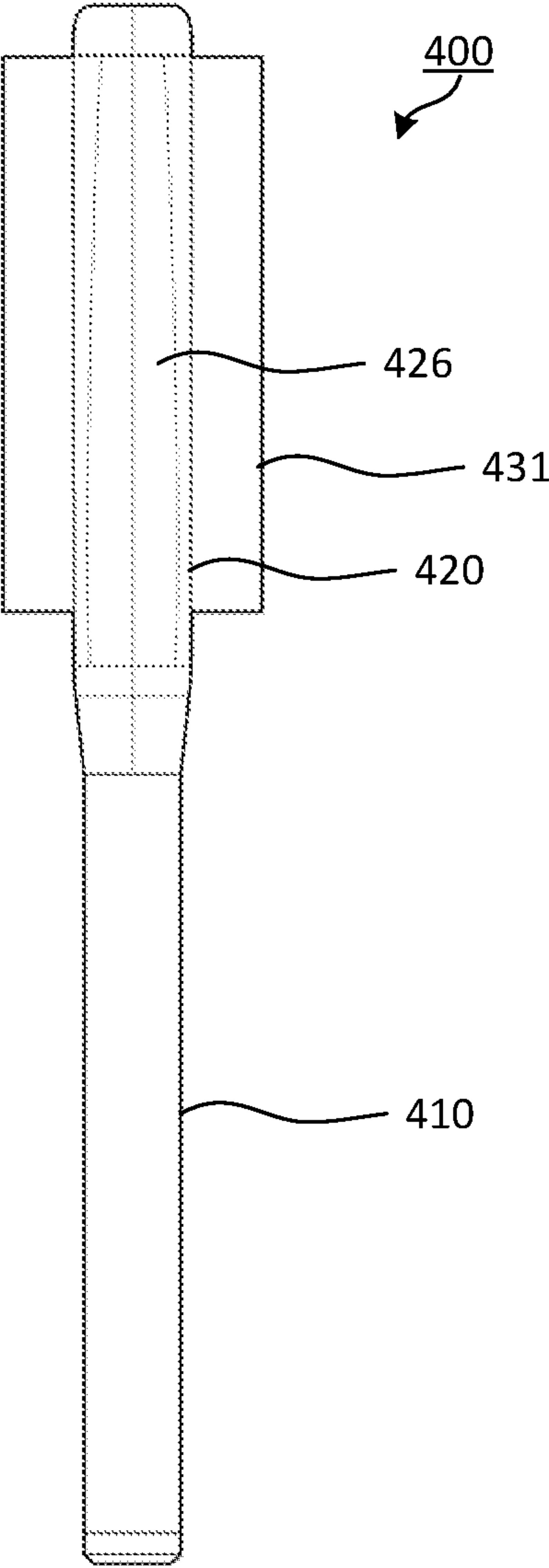


FIG. 49

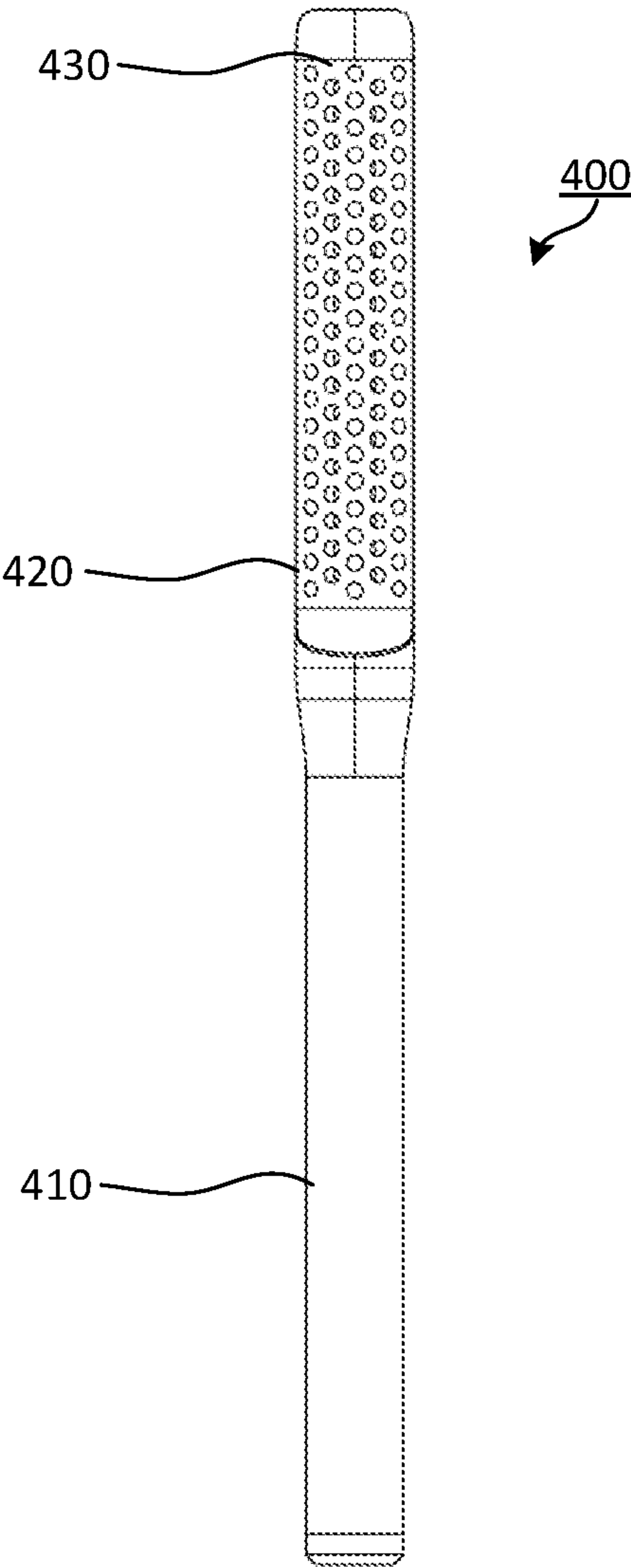


FIG. 50

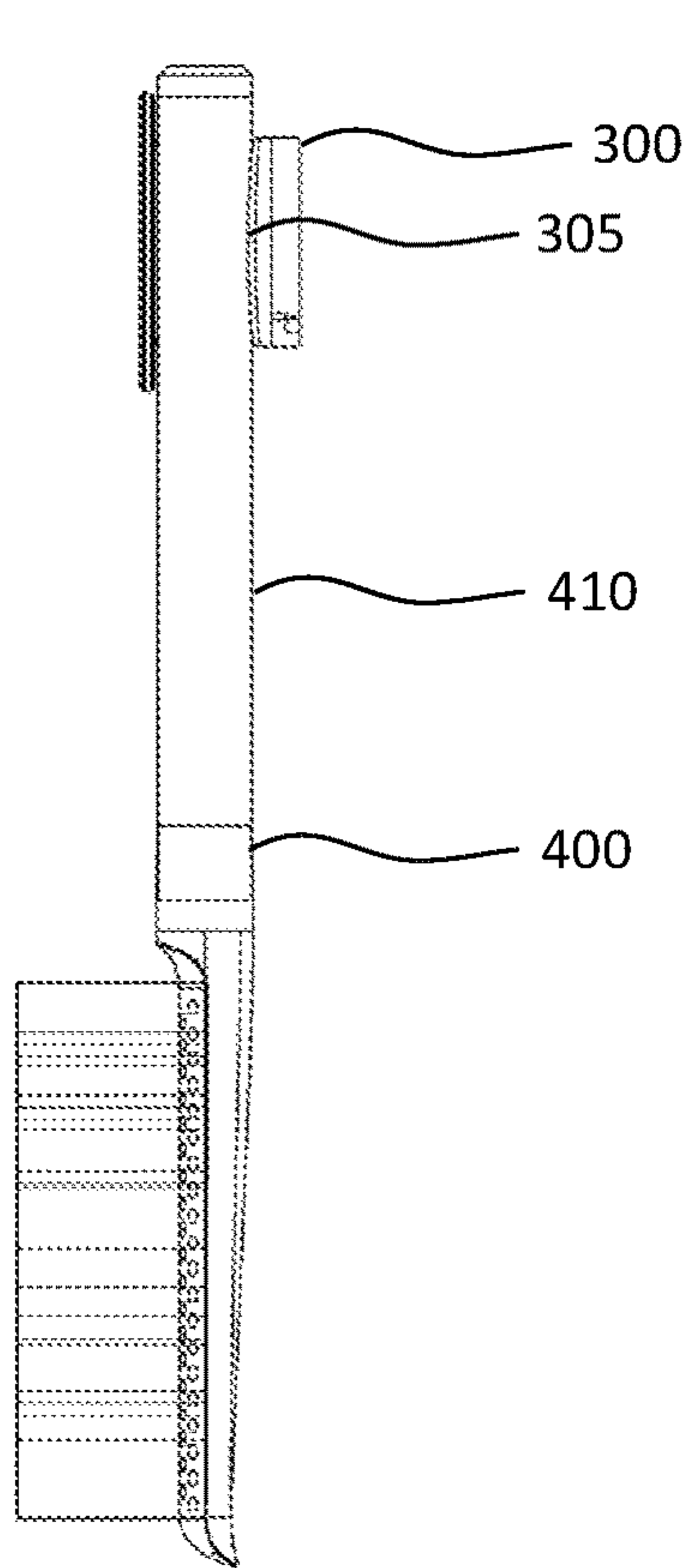


FIG. 51

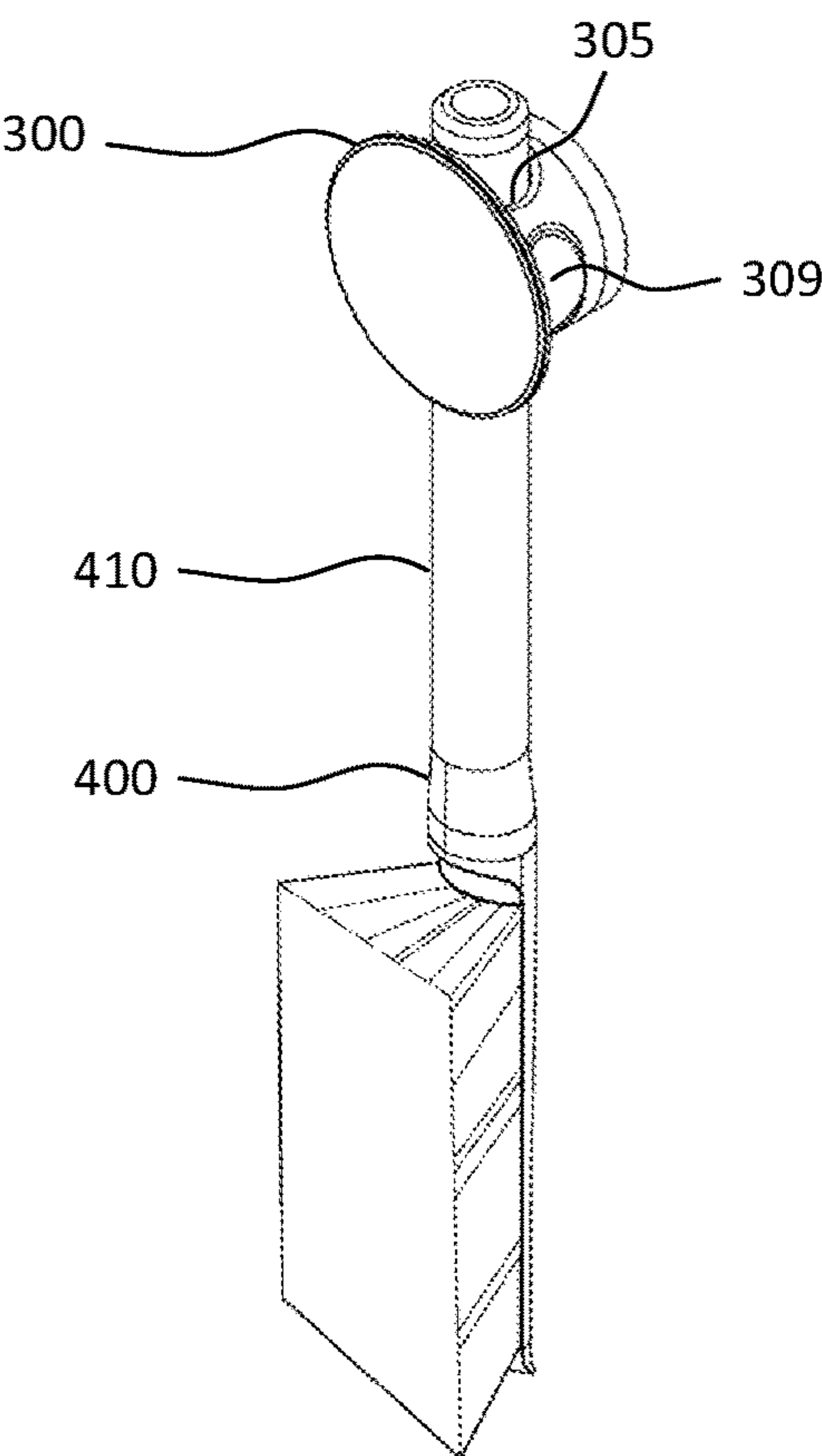


FIG. 52

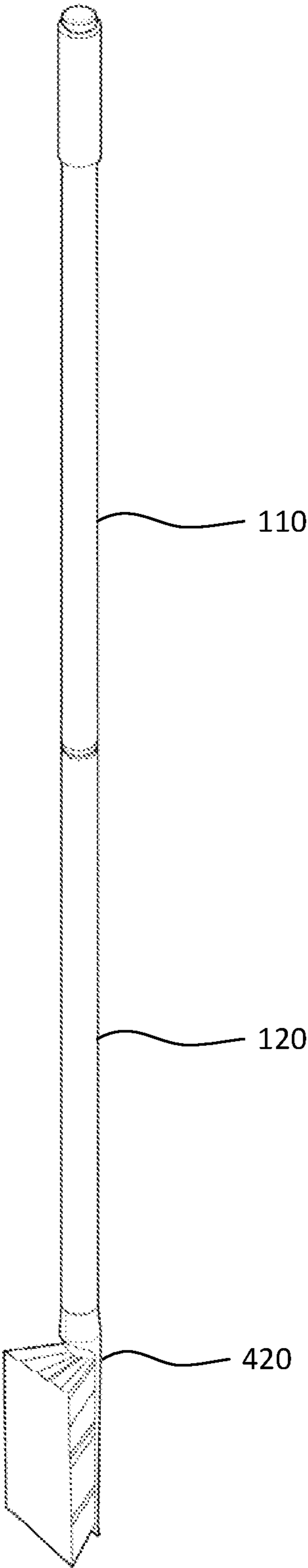


FIG. 53

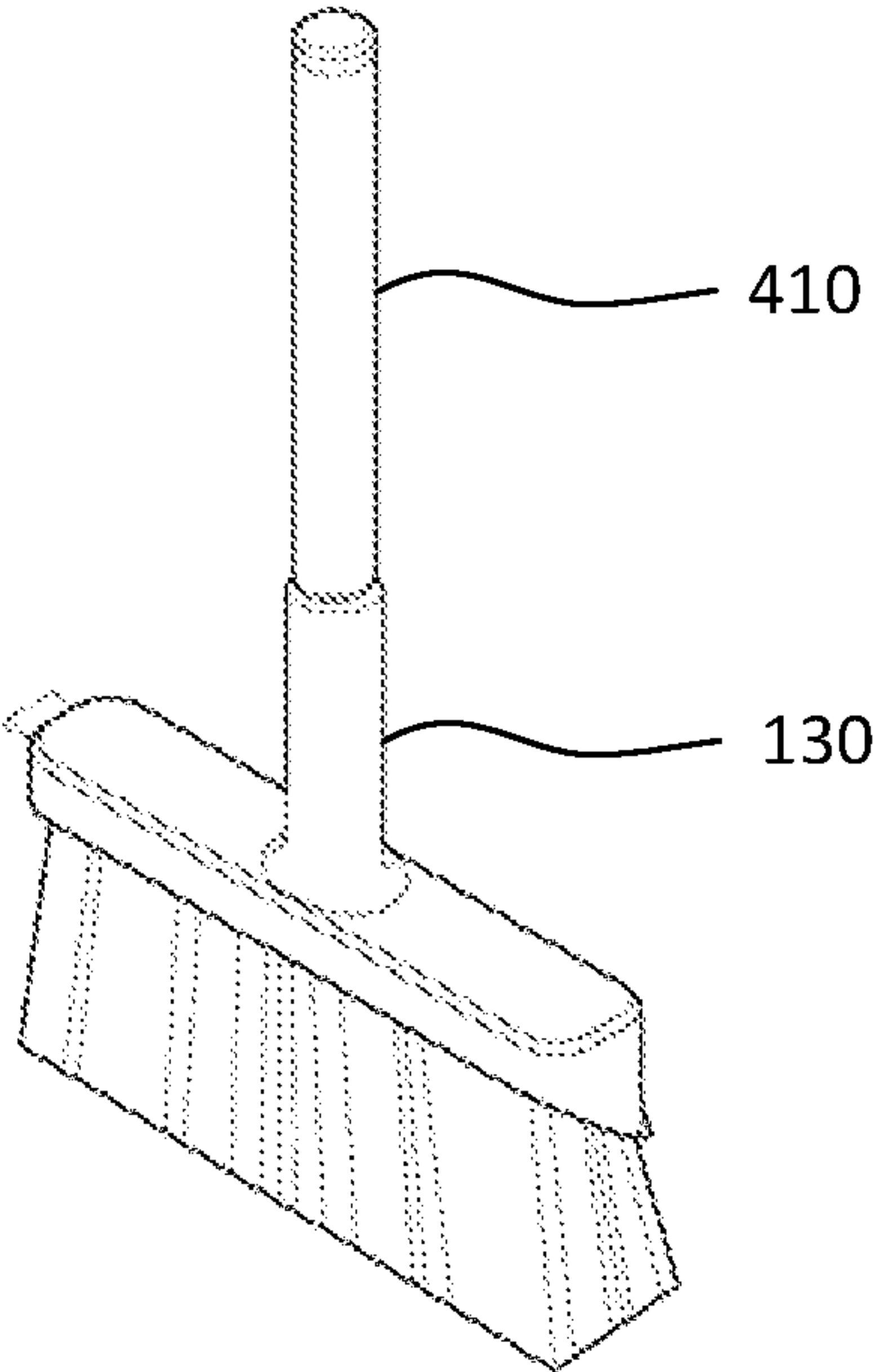


FIG. 54

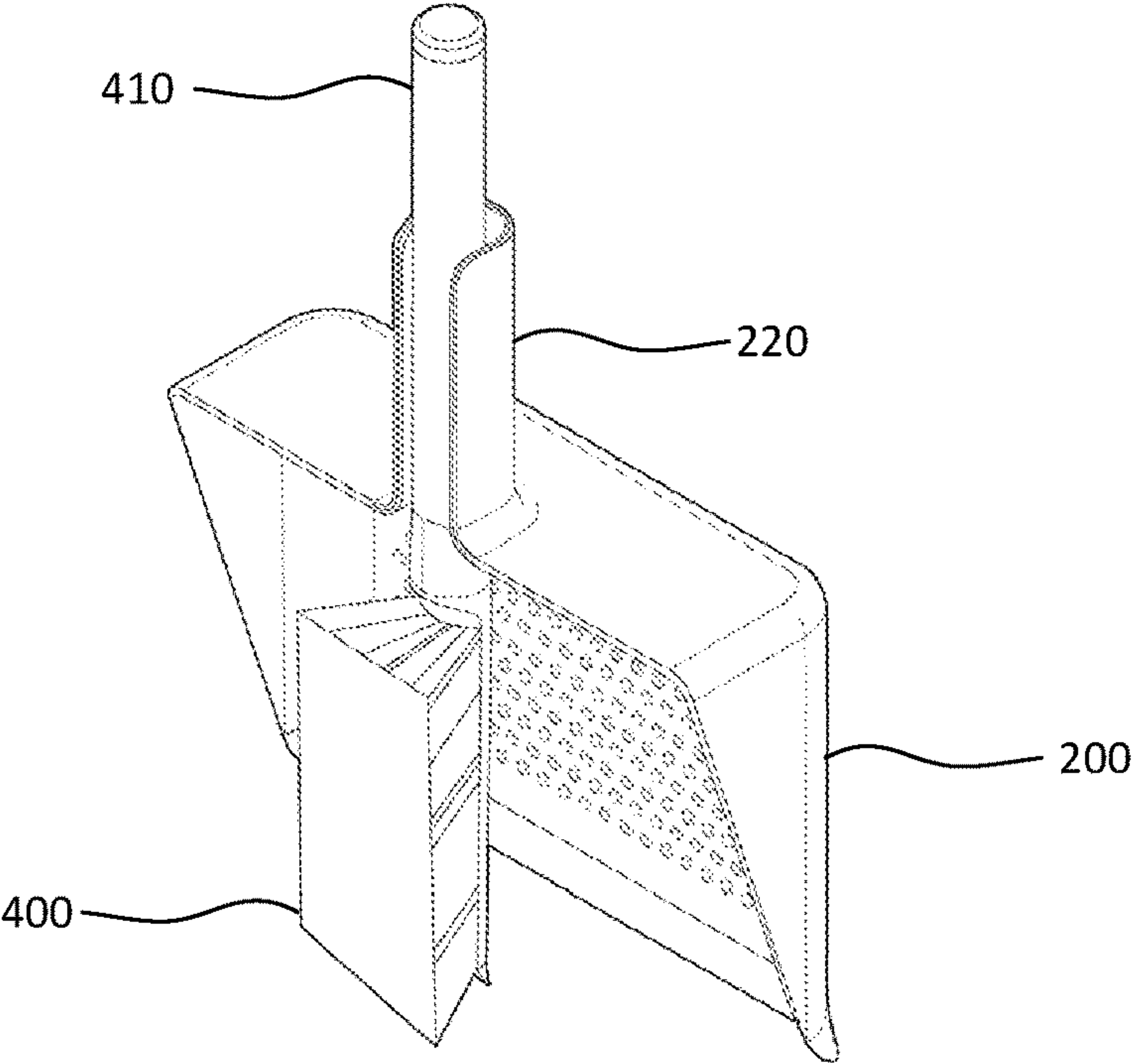


FIG. 55

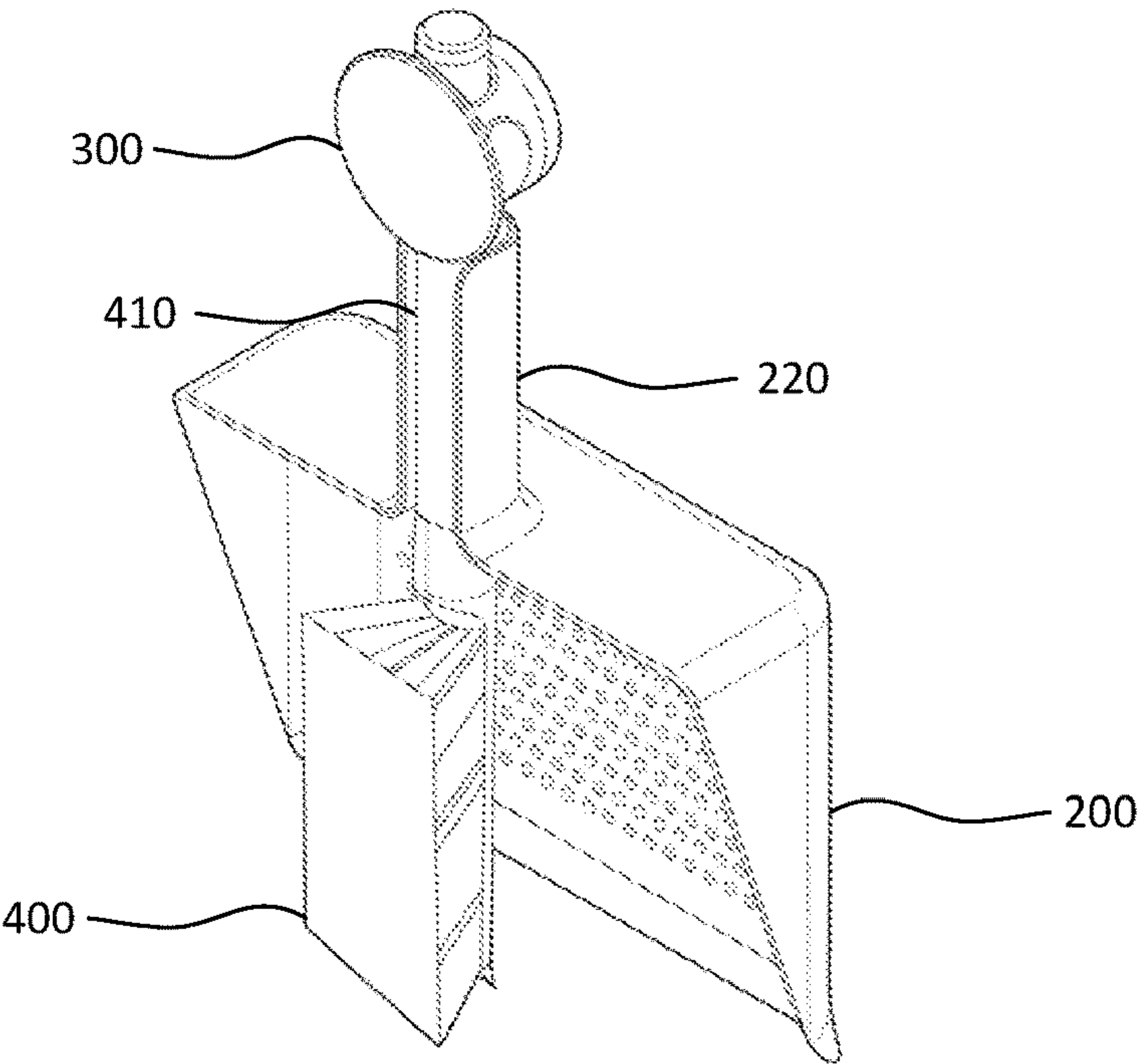


FIG. 56

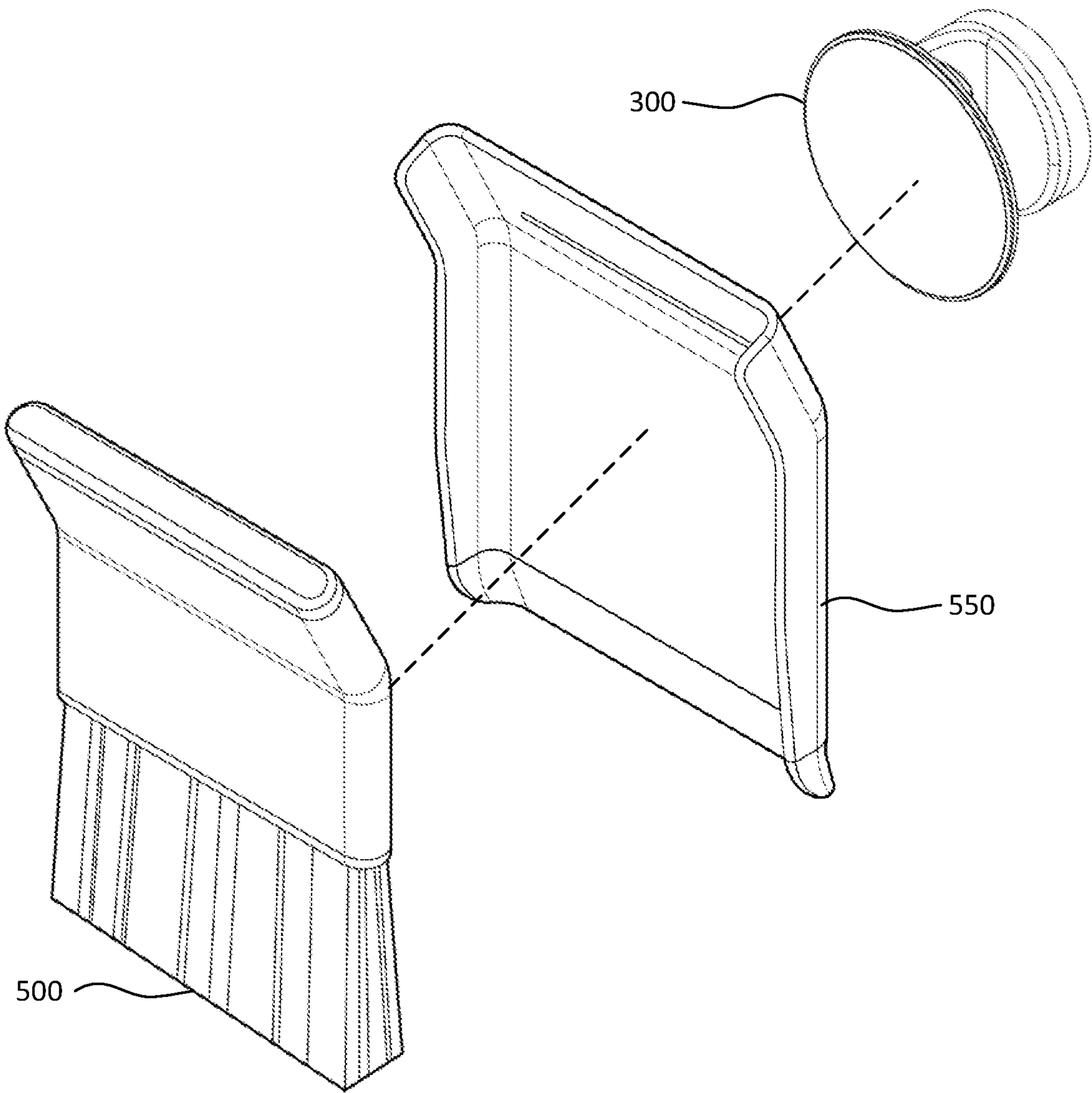


FIG. 57

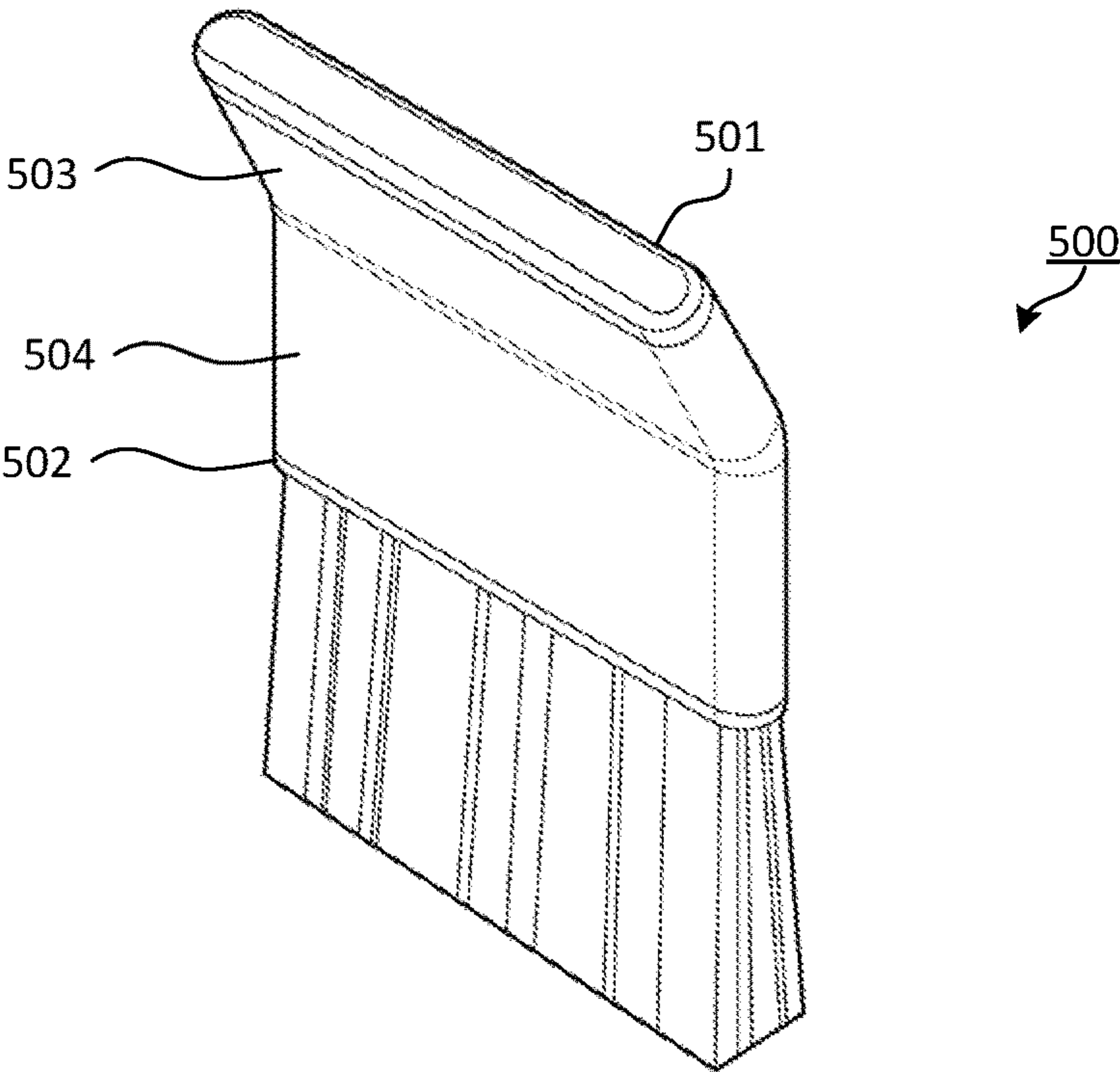


FIG. 58

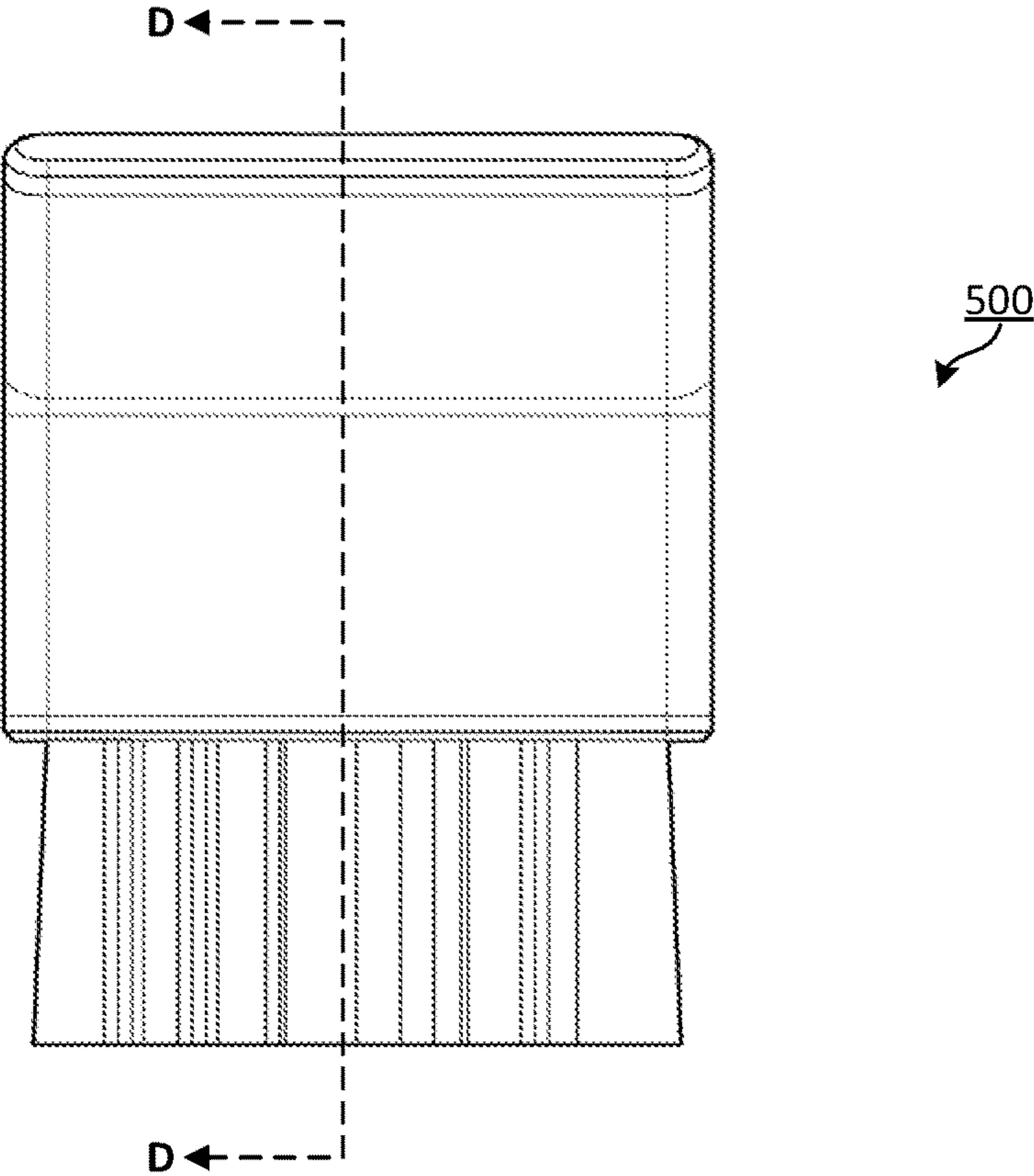


FIG. 59

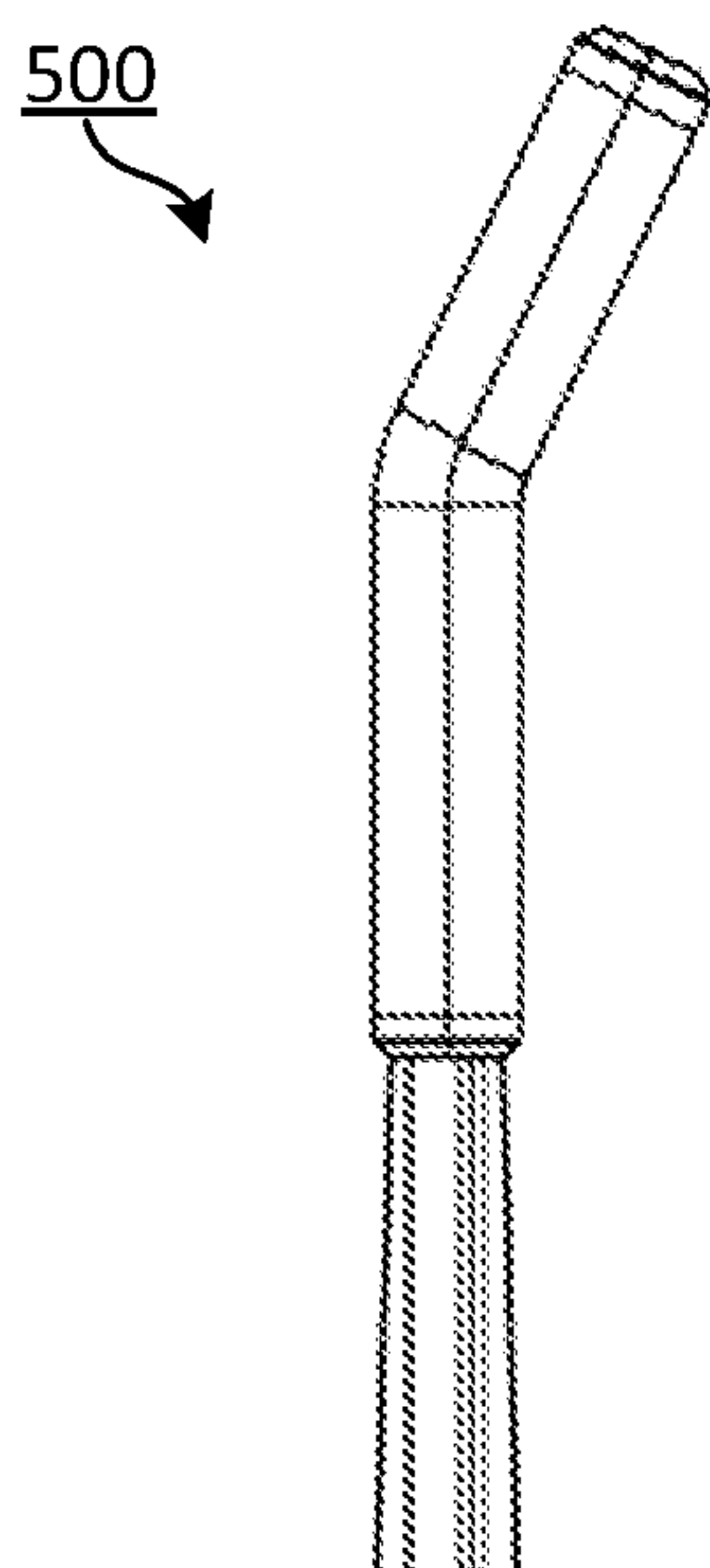


FIG. 60

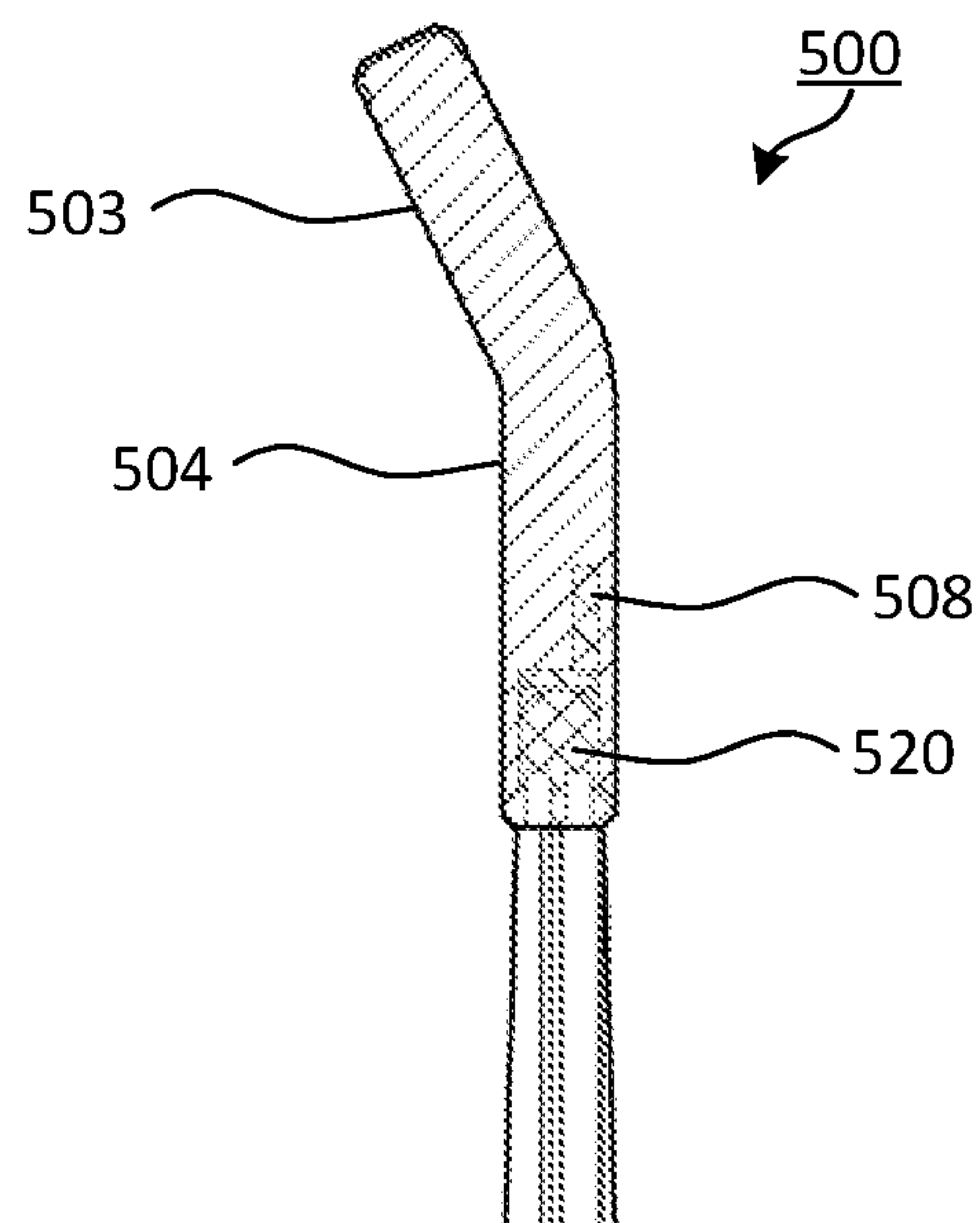


FIG. 61

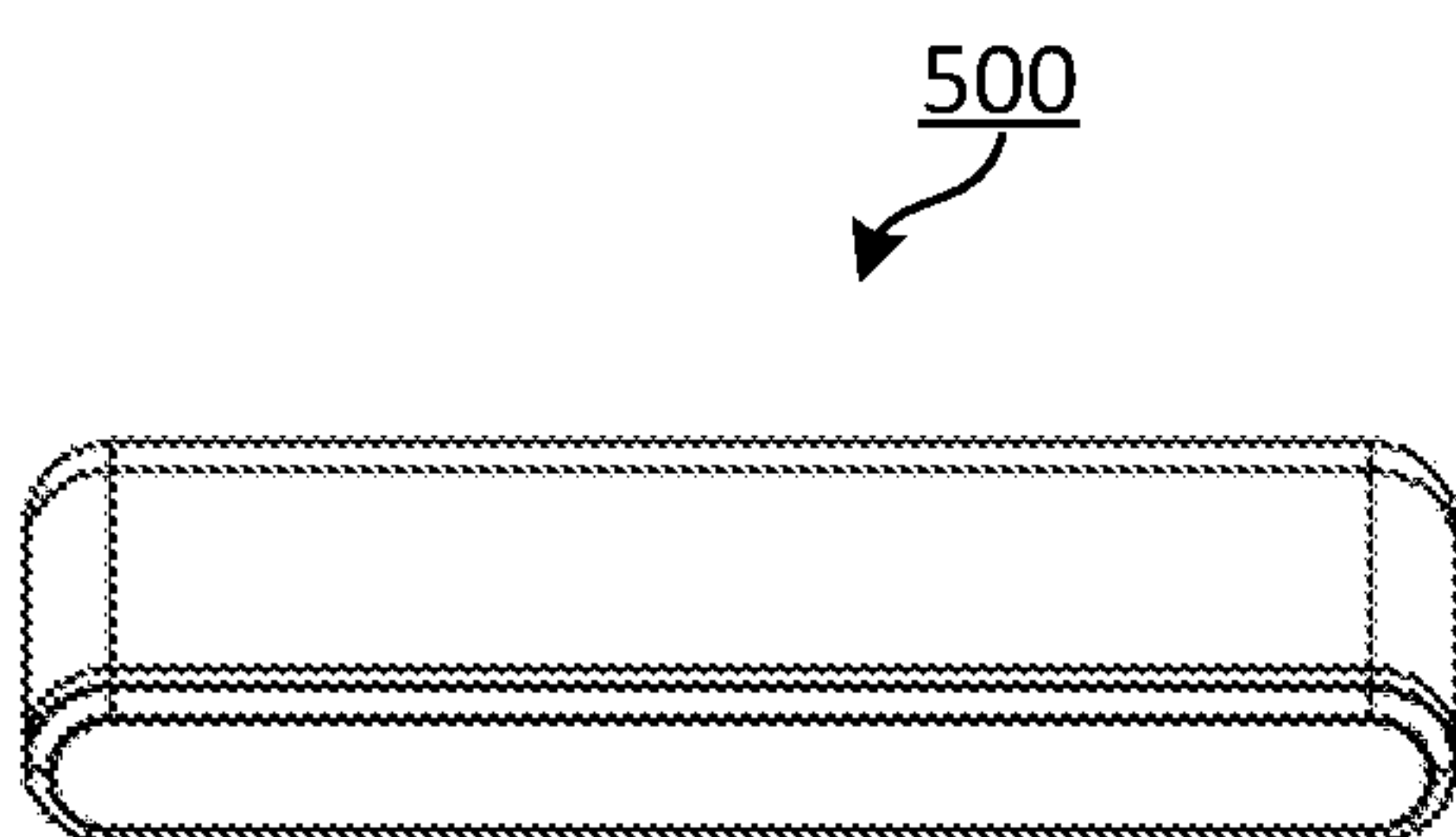


FIG. 62

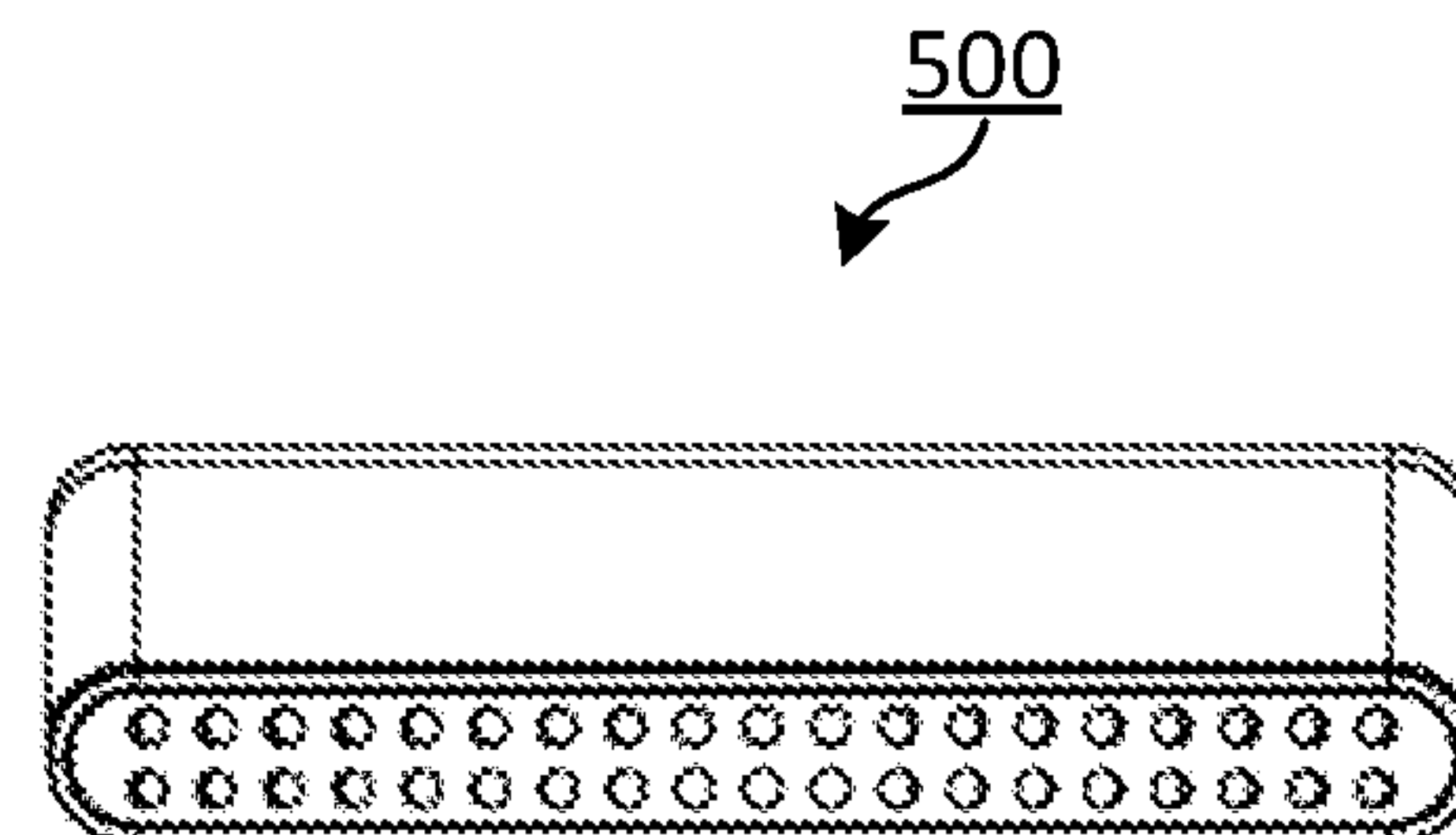


FIG. 63

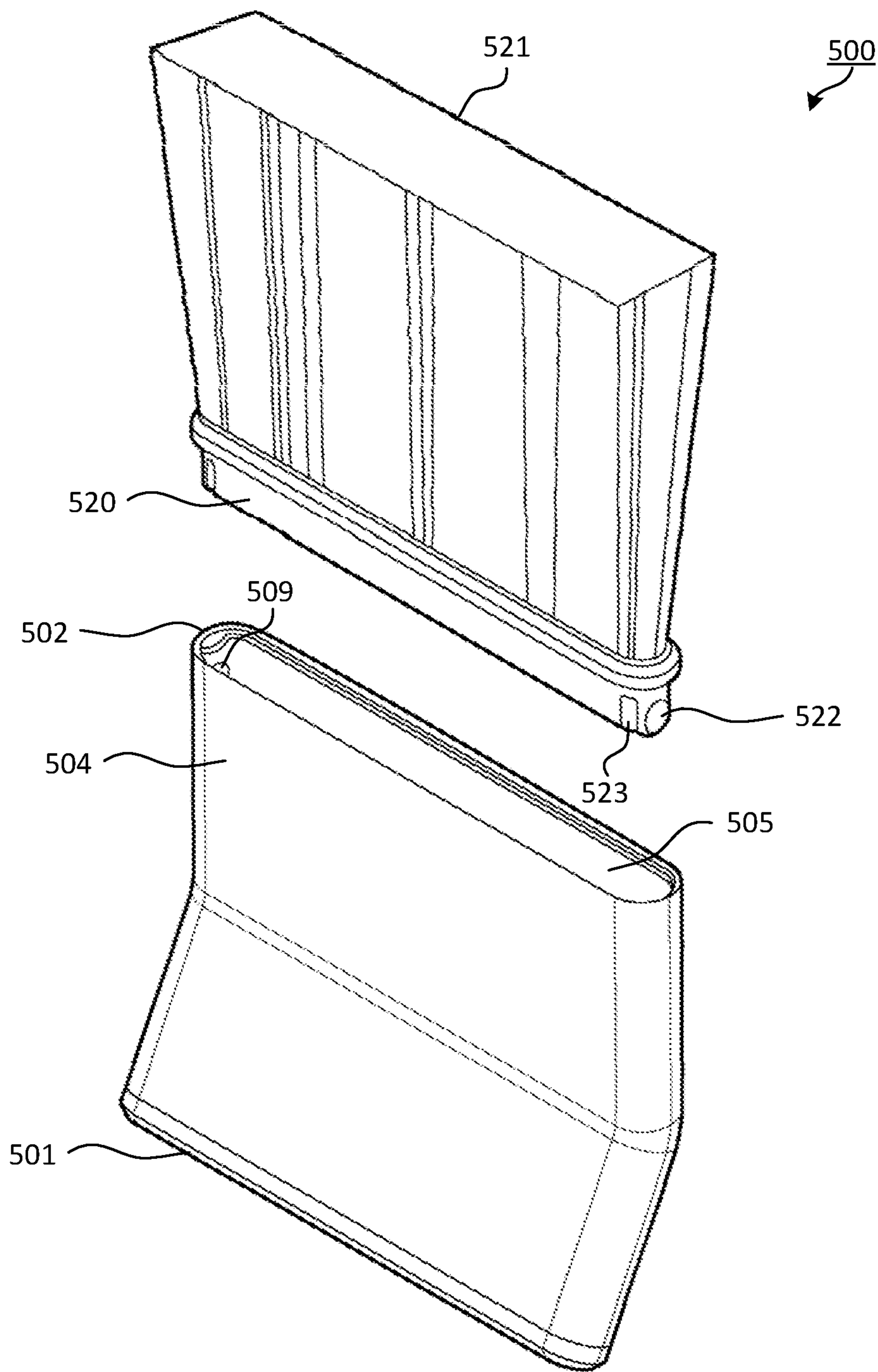
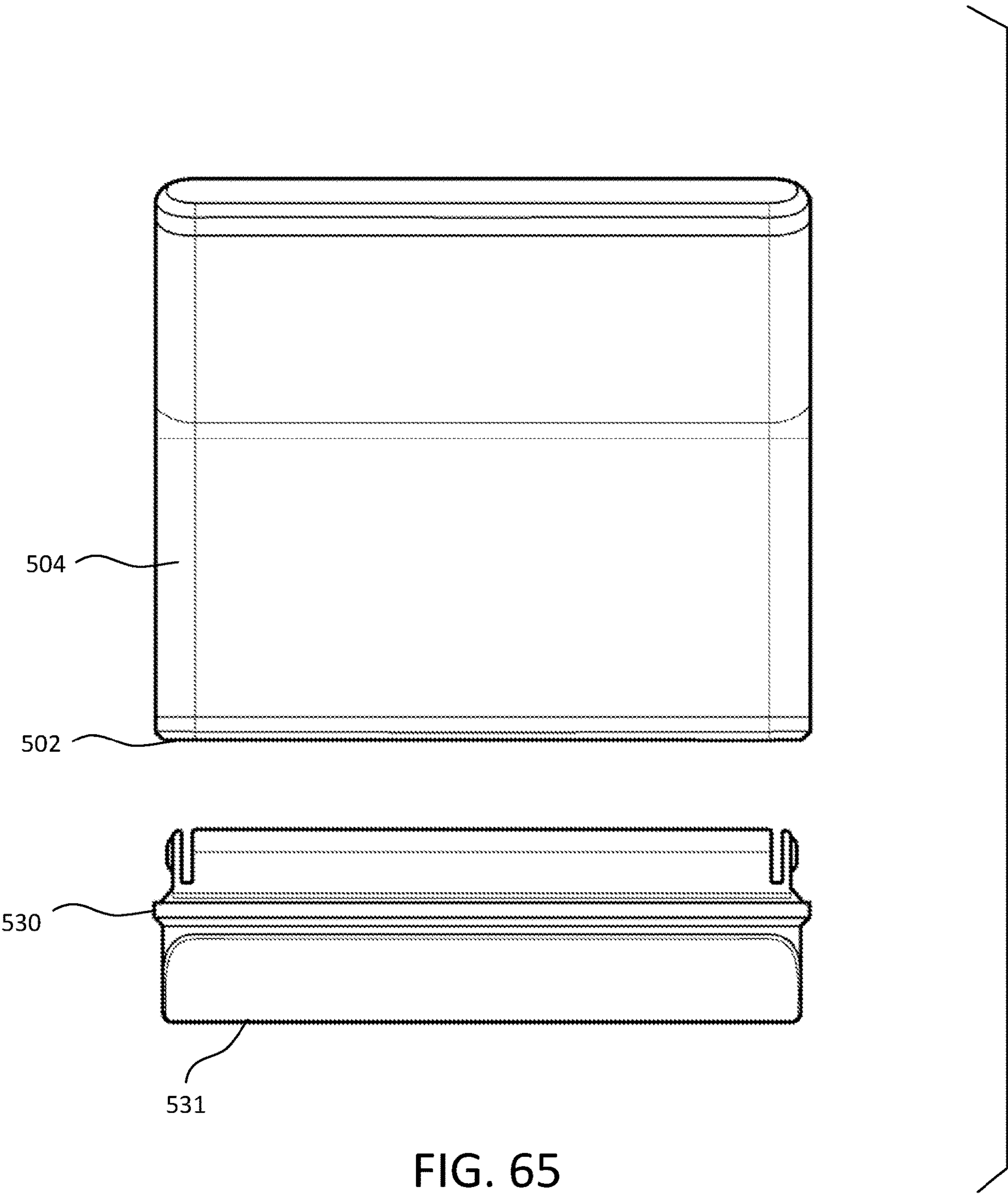


FIG. 64



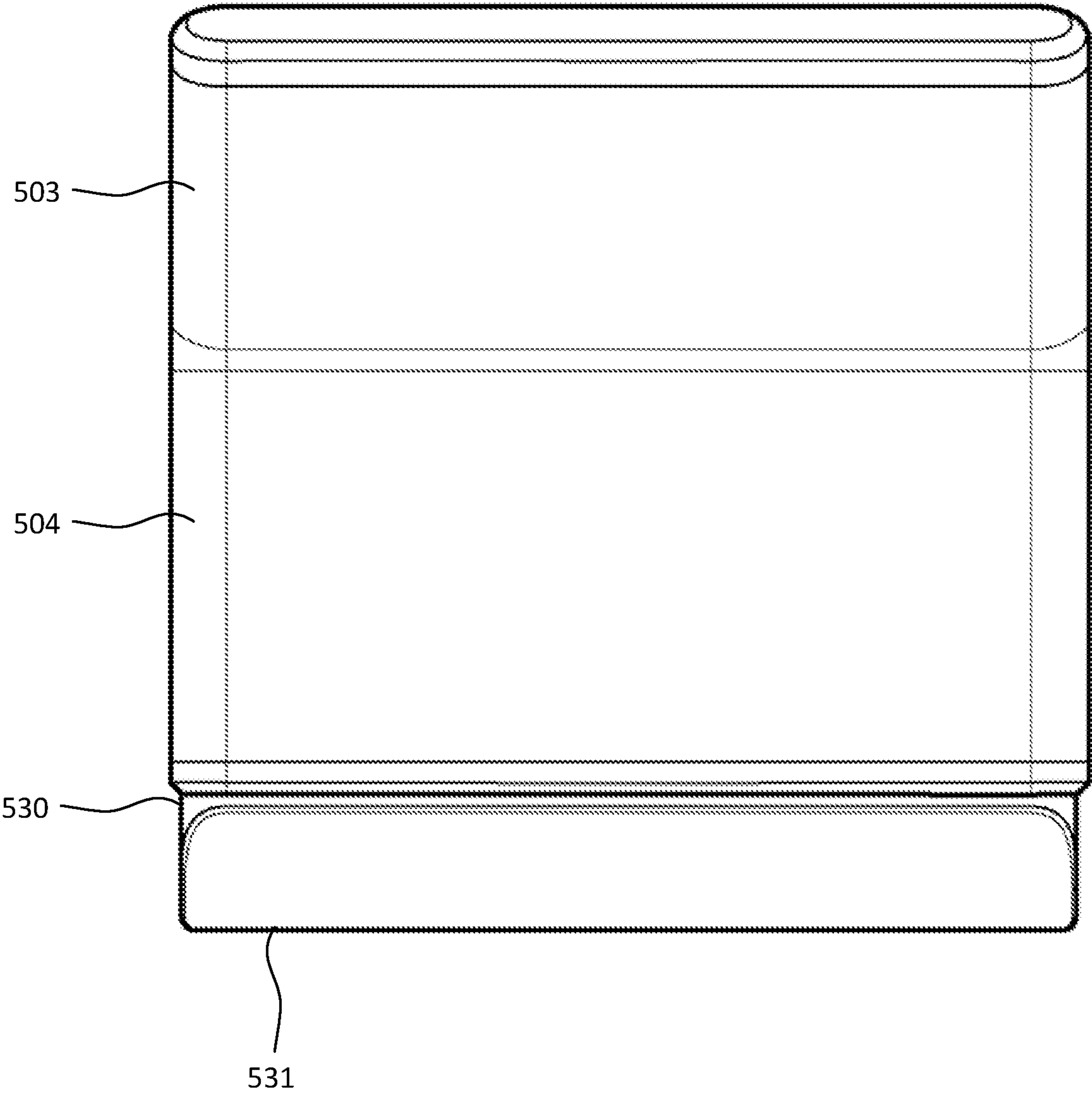


FIG. 66

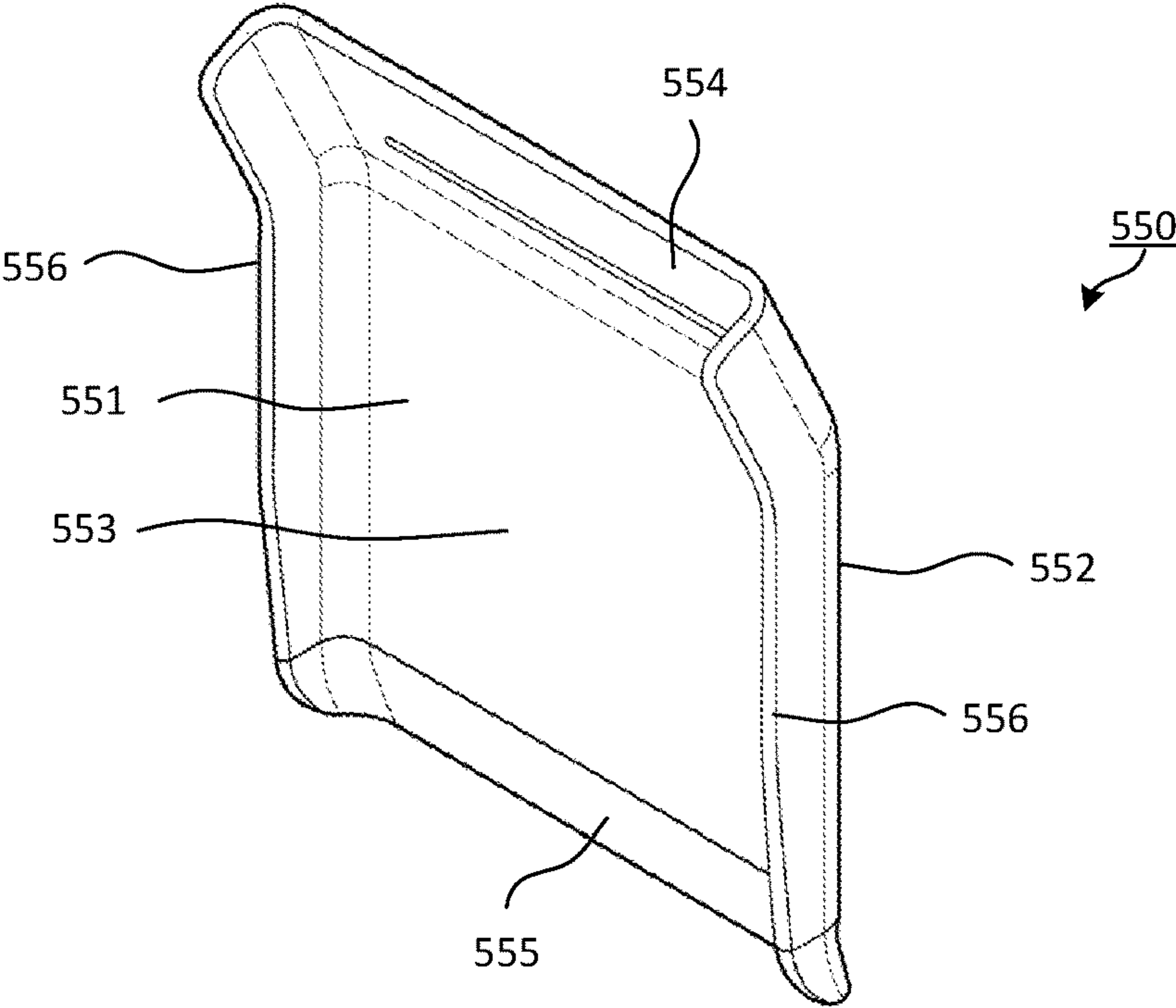


FIG. 67

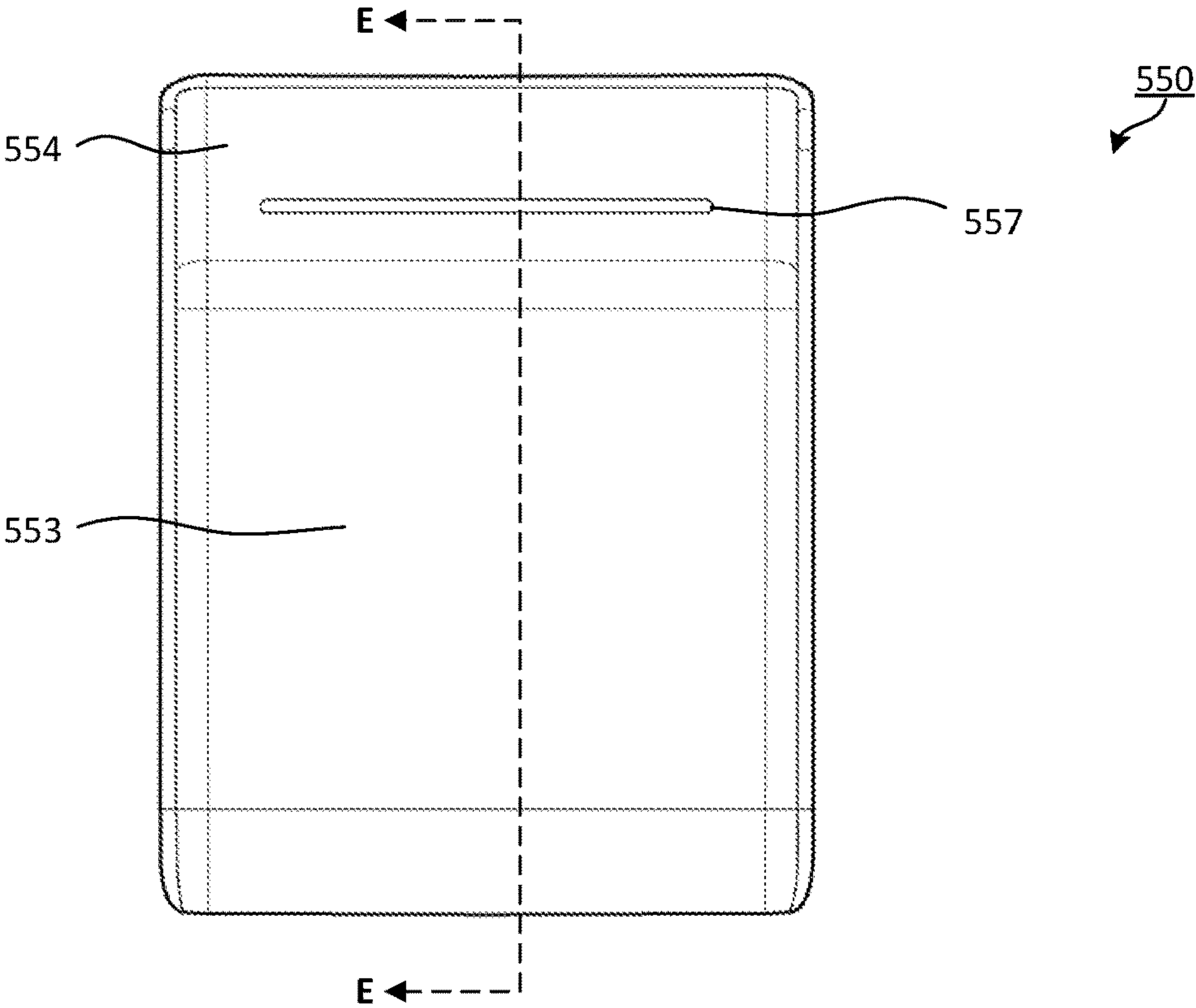


FIG. 68

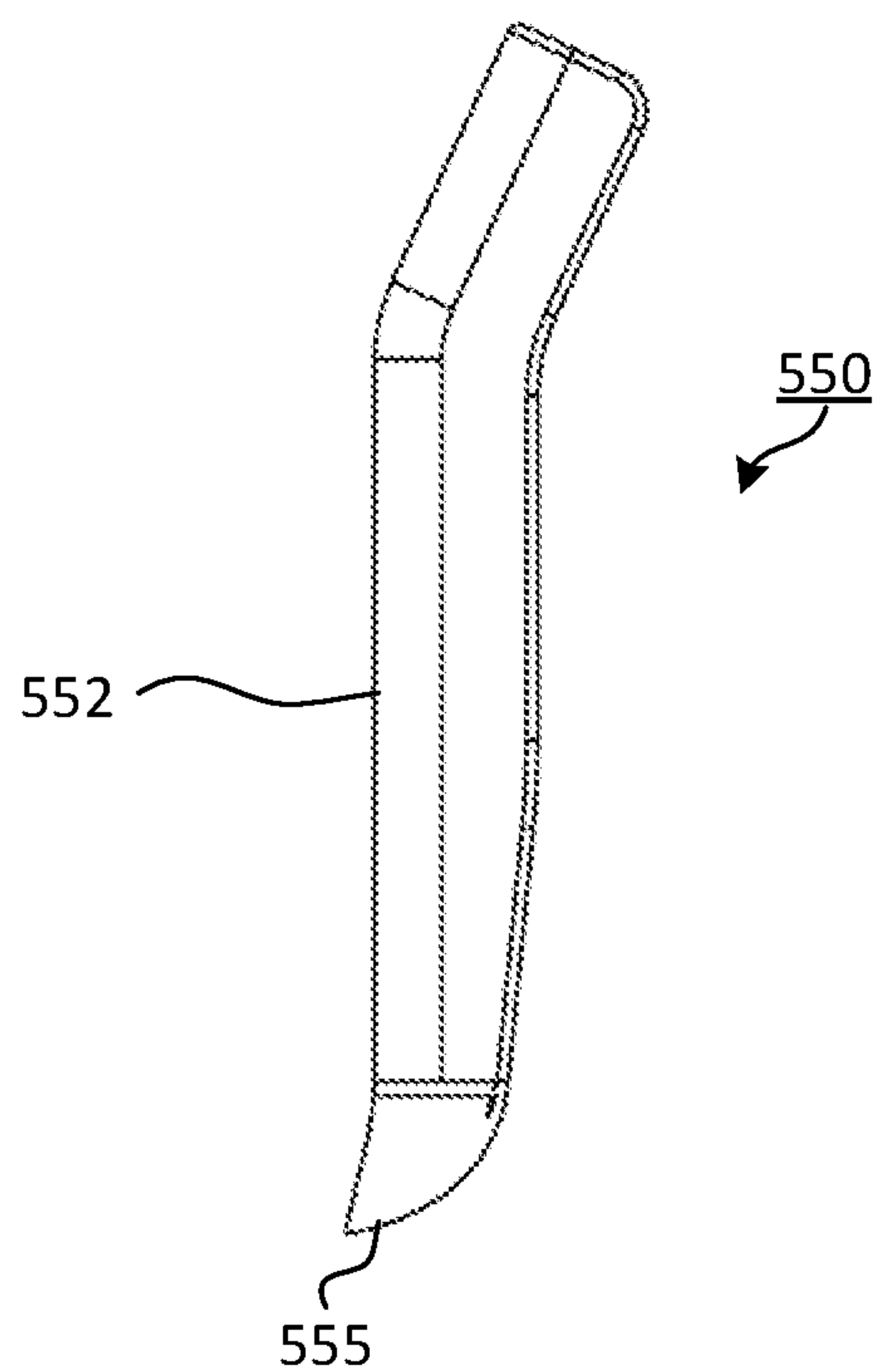


FIG. 69

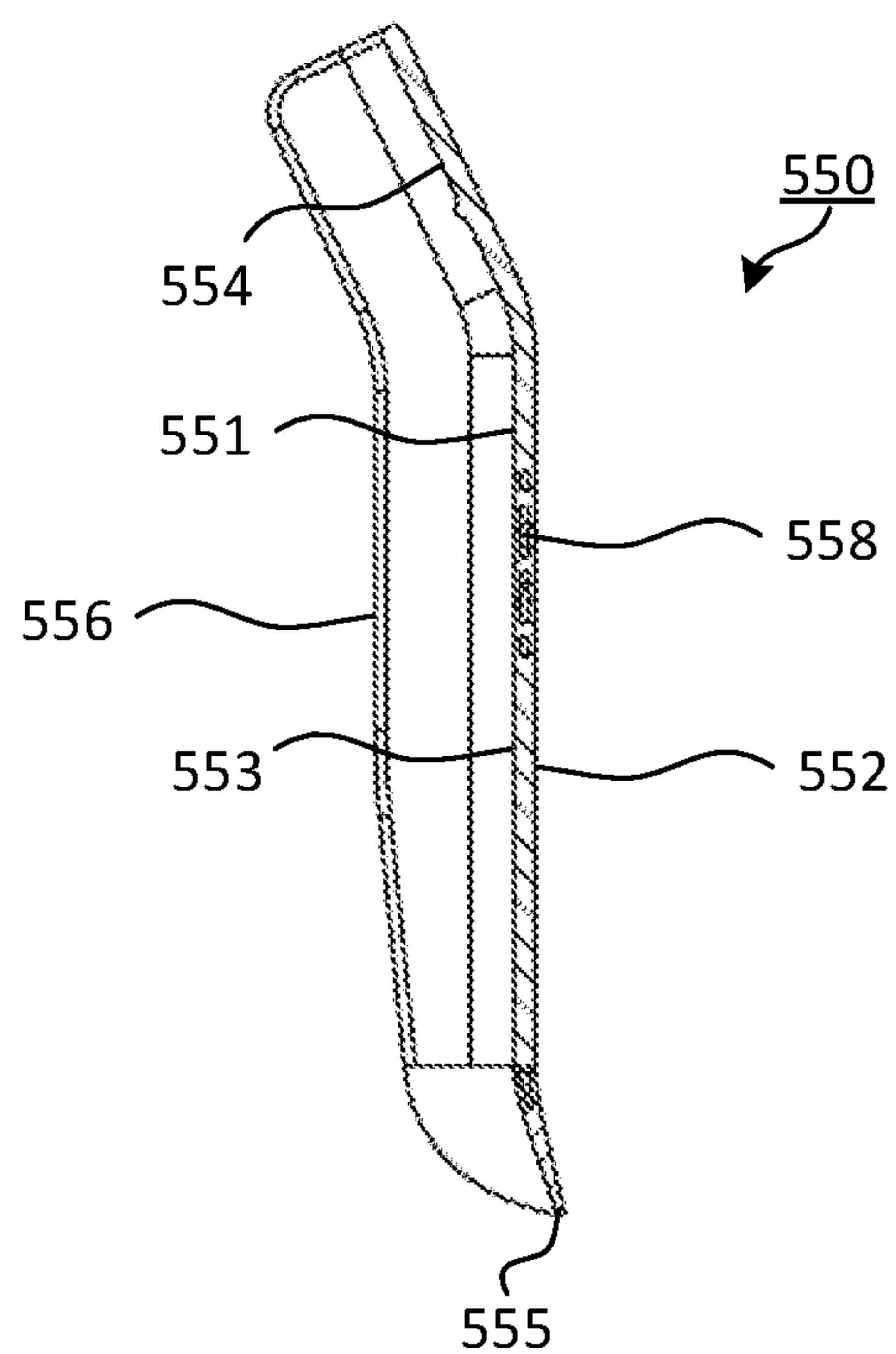


FIG. 70

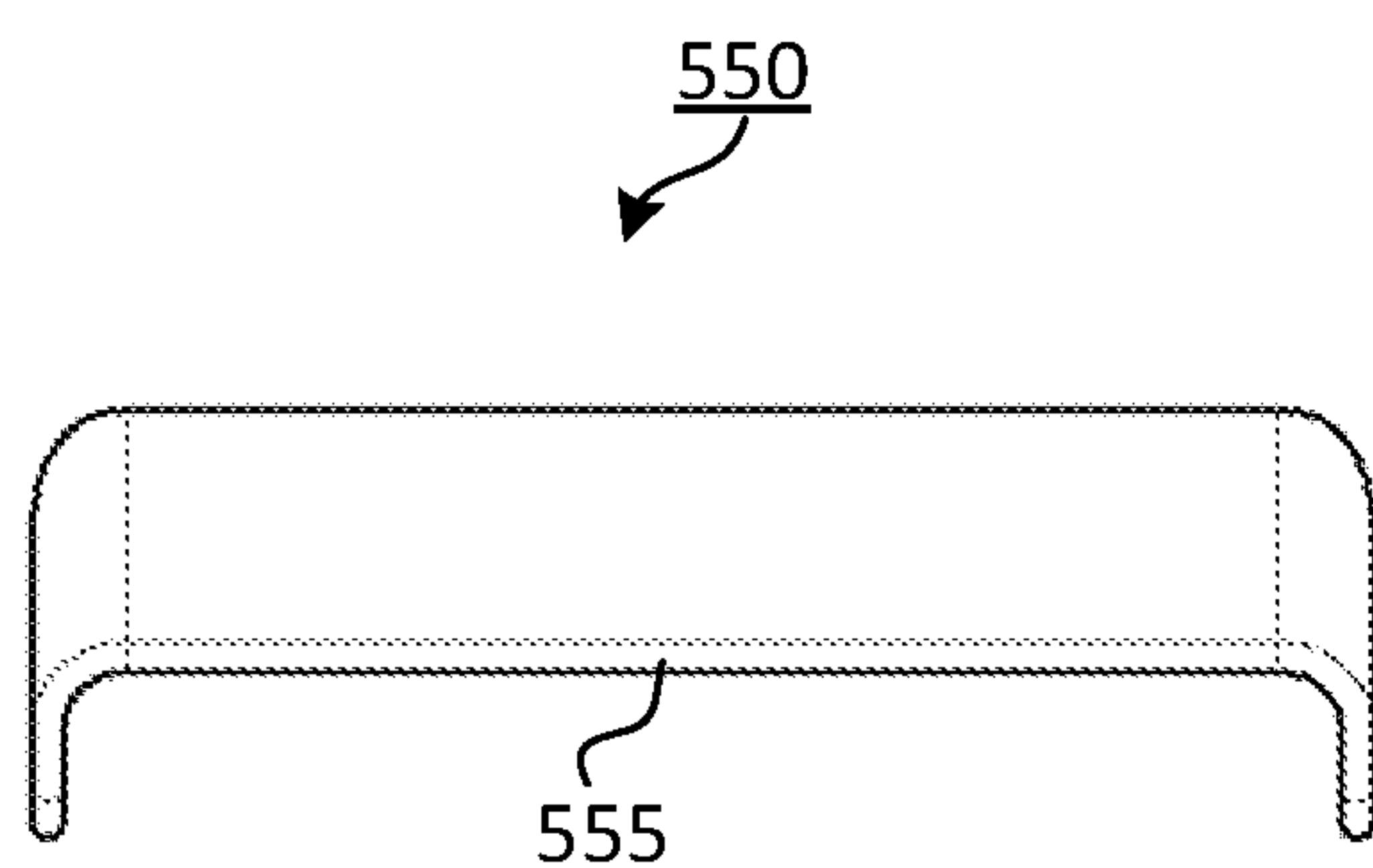


FIG. 71

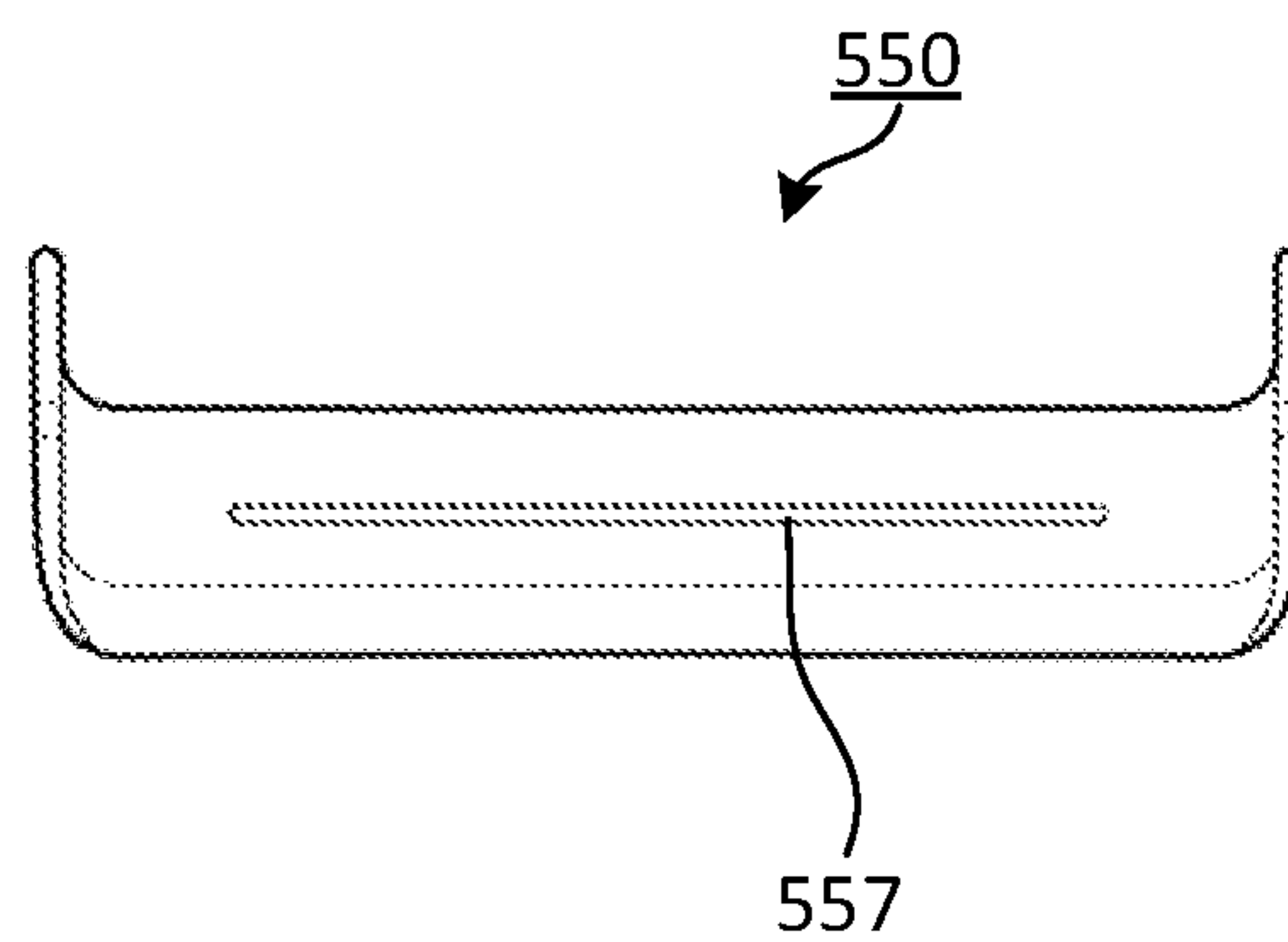


FIG. 72

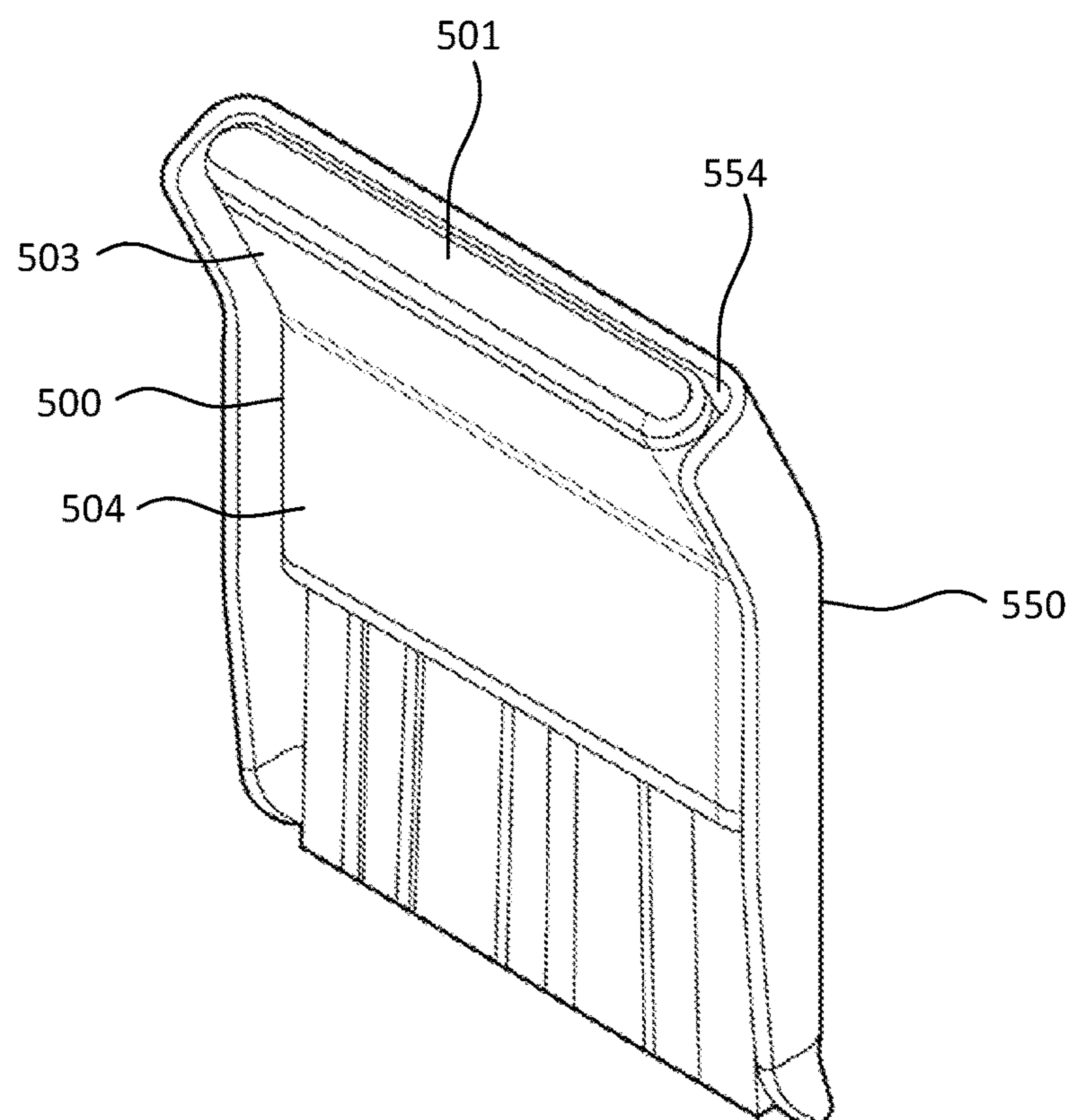


FIG. 73

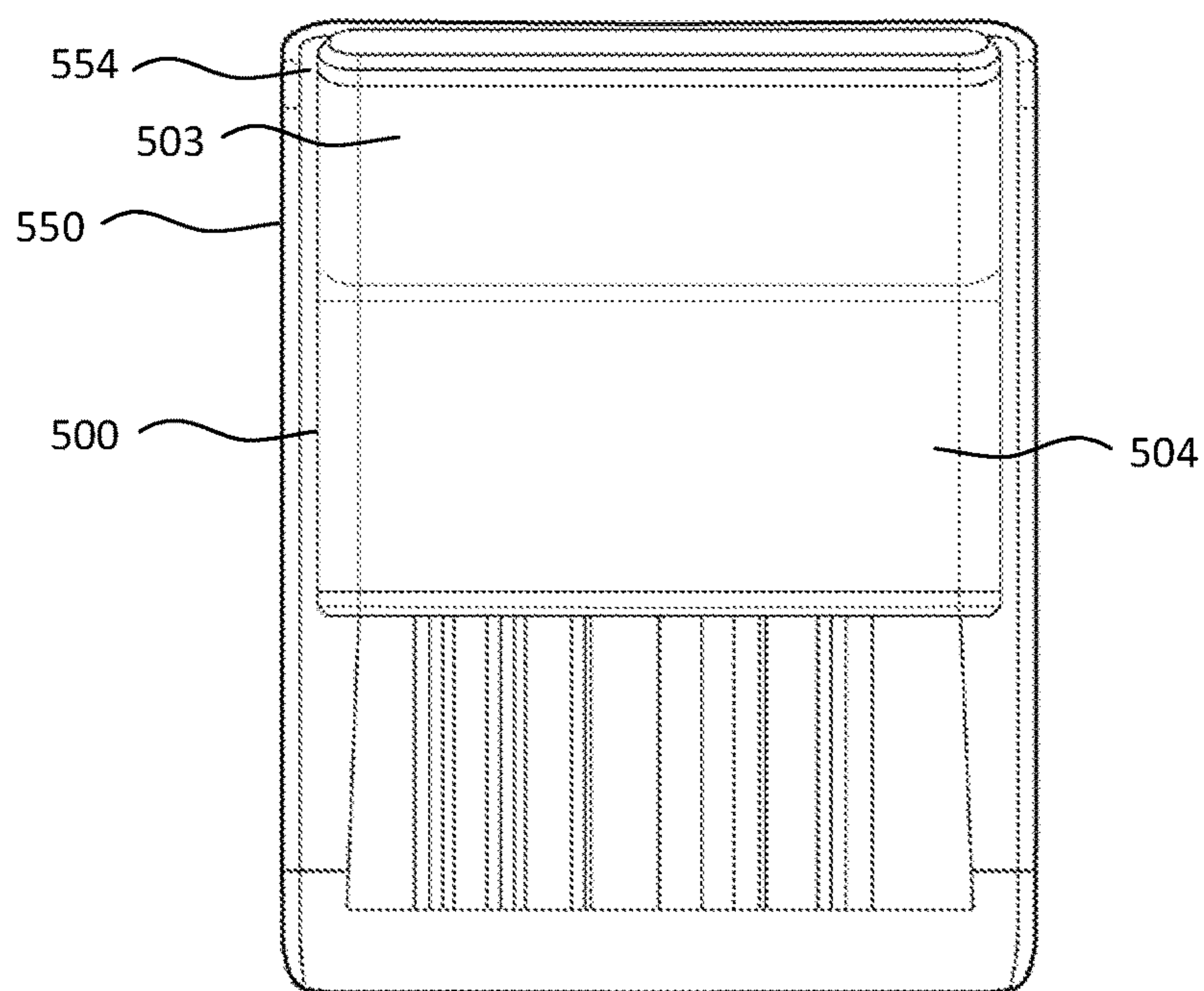


FIG. 74

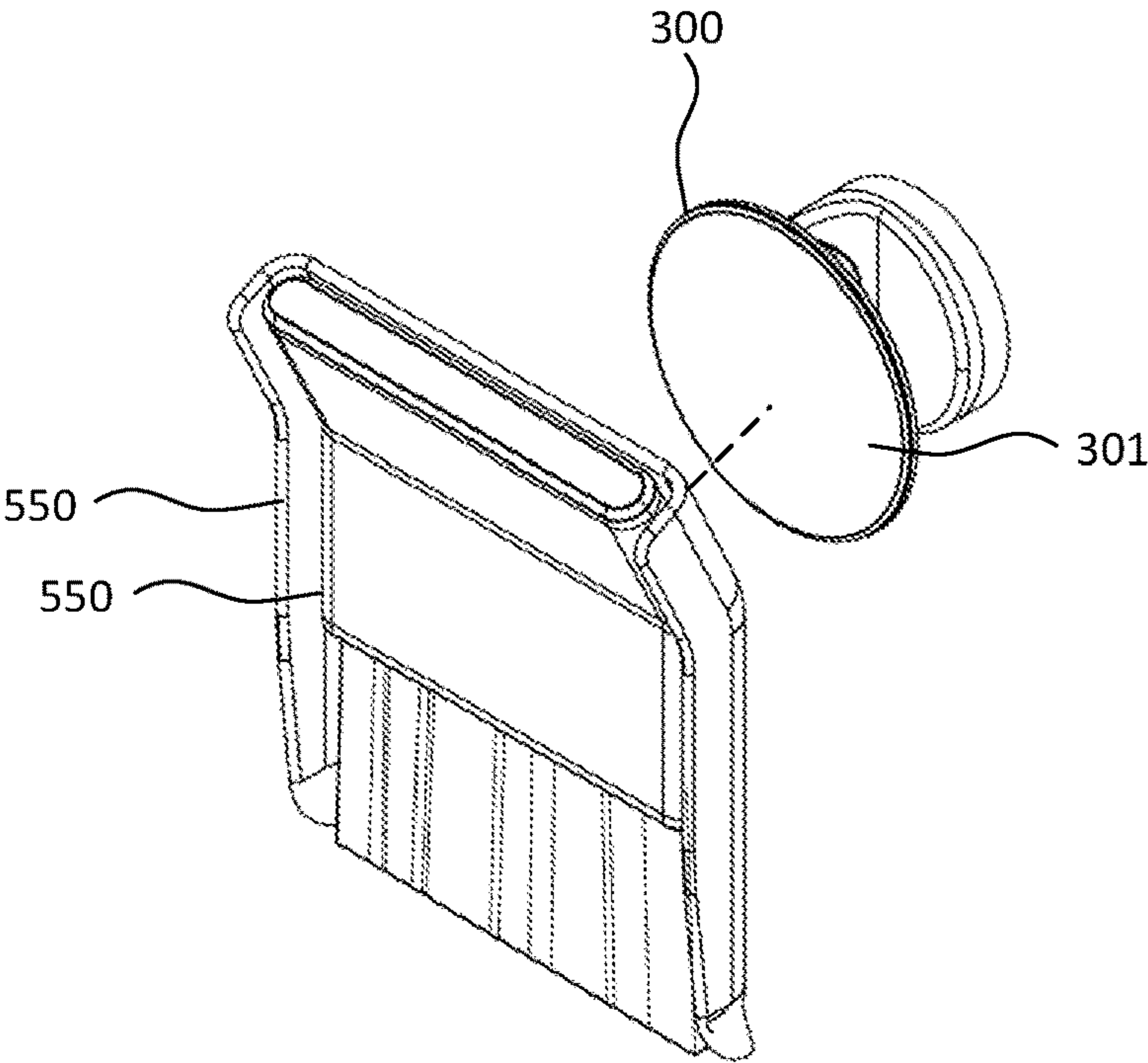


FIG. 75

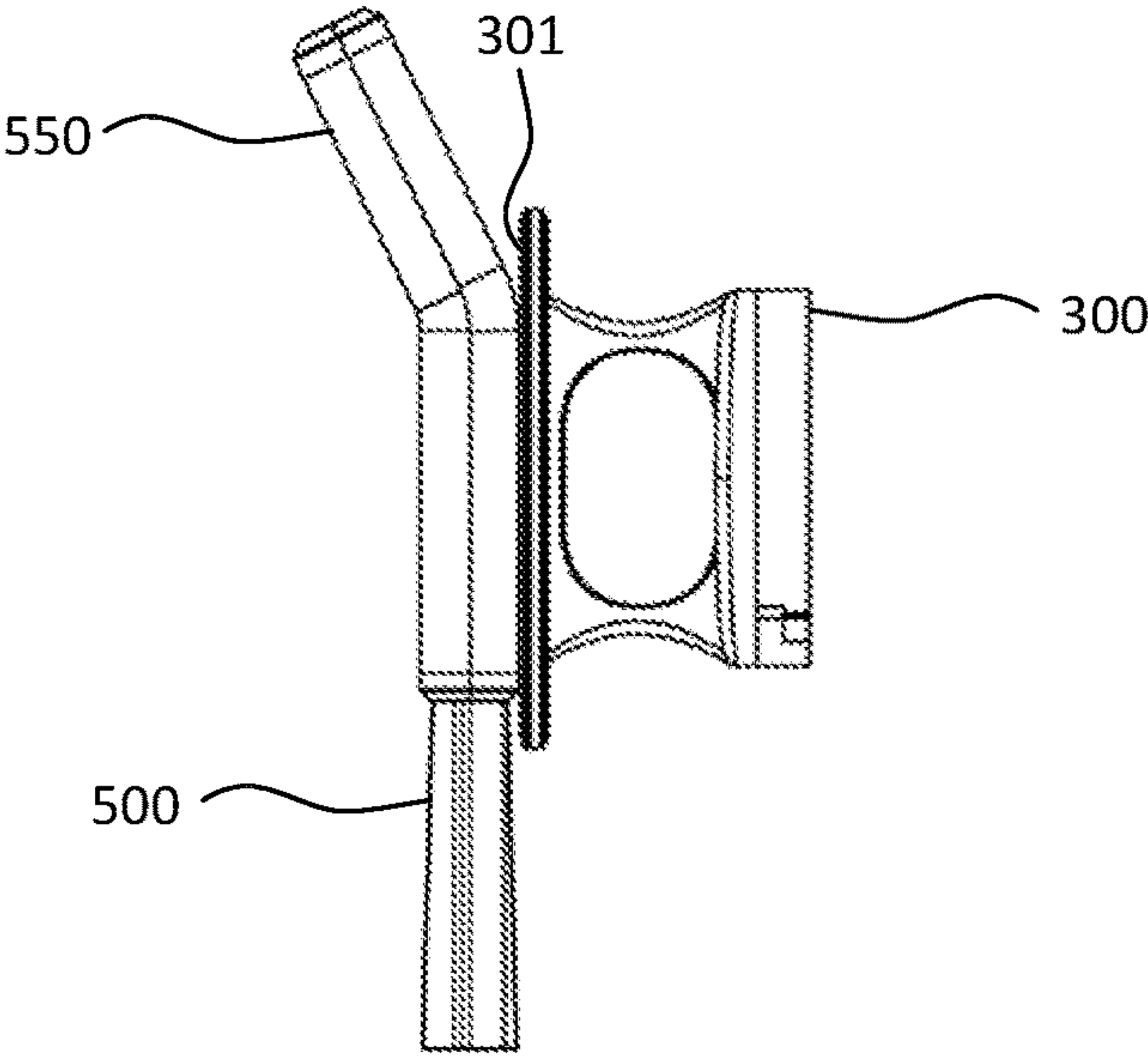


FIG. 76

1

MAGNETIC TOOL SET

TECHNICAL FIELD

The subject disclosure relates to the field of tools. More particularly, the subject disclosure relates to the transporting and storing of the tool assemblies using magnetic mounts.

BACKGROUND OF THE SUBJECT DISCLOSURE

There are countless tools in use today designed to aid in the process of cleaning. These include larger brooms, smaller brooms, brushes, dustpans, scrapers, etc. Organizing and storing the various tools often becomes an ordeal as each tool takes up some space on its own and often a closet is used to store the various loose tools together.

Relatedly, when several cleaning tools must be taken to a location, the task of handling and transporting the required tools becomes an ordeal as each tool often needs to be carried on its own. Thus, any time there are more two or more tools to carry, both hands of a user become tasked with simply carrying the tools. This often results in the user making several trips from the location of storage of the cleaning tools and the location of use of the cleaning tools. For example, a cleaning crew that arrives to a home or office and needs to carry cleaning tools to the target location will have to make several trips to carry in all the tools required to complete the cleaning task. What is needed is a simple but effective solution that addresses the tasks of neatly and efficiently storing various cleaning tools, and also allowing for ease in transporting the tools from one location to another.

SUMMARY OF THE SUBJECT DISCLOSURE

The present subject disclosure presents a novel magnetic cleaning set having a number of useful tools, including, for example, a broom assembly, a dustpan, a handheld brush, a magnetic mount, a mini broom and a mini dustpan. The broom assembly has a magnetically detachable rod, and a broom comprising: a broomstick that receives the magnetically detachable rod; a broomhead having a front wall connected to a rear wall by a top wall, the top wall having an aperture adapted to receive the broomstick; and a plurality of bristles that extend from a bottom of the broomhead.

Although the examples presented throughout the present subject disclosure relate to tools used in cleaning, the present subject disclosure is not limited to cleaning tools, and may be used for efficiently transporting and storing various tools related to specific tasks, such as, for example, cleaning, construction, plumbing, heating and air conditioning, automobile repair, etc. One having ordinary skill in the art would recognize and appreciate that the subject disclosure described herein is applicable to a wide variety of fields.

In one exemplary embodiment, the present subject disclosure is a magnetic mount for a tool assembly. The magnetic mount includes a block; a magnetic element disposed at or near a surface of the block; a wall mount to mount the block on a flat surface; and one or more indents on the block to accommodate one or more tools.

In another exemplary embodiment, the present subject disclosure is a magnetic mount for a tool assembly. The magnetic mount includes a front surface; a back surface; a first mounting side wall including a first indent and extending from the front surface to the back surface; and a second

2

mounting side wall including a second indent and extending from the front surface to the back surface; and a magnetic element disposed at or near the front surface; wherein the first mounting side wall and the second mounting side wall are located on different sides of the mount.

In yet another exemplary embodiment, the present subject disclosure is a magnetic mount for a tool assembly. The magnetic mount includes a front surface; a back surface; a first mounting side wall including a first semicylindrical indent and extending from the front surface to the back surface; and a second mounting side wall including a second semicylindrical indent and extending from the front surface to the back surface; and a magnetic element disposed at or near the front surface; wherein the first side indent and the second side indent are located on different sides of the mount, and include a coating to increase frictional properties.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Various exemplary embodiments of this disclosure will be described in detail, wherein like reference numerals refer to identical or similar components or steps, with reference to the following figures, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a front perspective view of a magnetic cleaning set according to the subject disclosure.

FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective view of the magnetic cleaning set.

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of an assembly of a dustpan mounted on to a broom and the broom mounted onto a magnetic mount.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the dustpan mounted onto a handheld broom and the handheld broom mounted on to the magnetic mount.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of a mini brush and a mini dustpan mounted on to the magnetic mount.

FIG. 6 is an exploded view of the assembly shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the broom.

FIG. 8 is a left side view of the broom.

FIG. 9 is a right side view of the broom.

FIG. 10 is a front view of the broom.

FIG. 11A is a sectional view of the broom taken at section lines A-A in FIG. 8.

FIG. 11B is an enlarged view of the circled portion labeled "I" located at the top of FIG. 11A.

FIG. 11C is an enlarged view of the circled portion labeled "II" located at the middle of FIG. 11A.

FIG. 11D is an enlarged view of the circled portion labeled "III" located at the bottom of FIG. 11A.

FIG. 11E is an enlarged view of the circled portion labeled "III" located at the bottom of FIG. 11A with a comb partially removed from a comb slot.

FIG. 12A is a perspective view of the broom, and the resulting disconnection of a magnetically detachable rod from a broomstick when a push button is pressed.

FIG. 12B is an enlarged cross sectional front view of FIG. 12A taken at the circled portion in FIG. 12A.

FIG. 12C is a cross sectional front view of the broom taken at the circled portion in FIG. 12.

FIG. 13 is a top view of the broom.

FIG. 14 is a bottom view of the broom with a removable bristle head situated therein.

FIG. 15 is a partial perspective view of the broom with the removable bristle head removed.

FIG. 16A is an angled right-side view of the broom in use swept in a first direction.

3

FIG. 16B is an enlarged view of the circled portion located in FIG. 16A.

FIG. 17 is an angled side view of the broom in use swept in a second direction.

FIG. 18 is a perspective view of the broom unmounted from the magnetic mount.

FIG. 19 is perspective view of the broom mounted on to the magnetic mount.

FIG. 20 is a perspective back view of the broom and the comb partially removed from a comb slot.

FIG. 21 is a partial perspective back view of the broom and the comb fully removed from the comb slot.

FIG. 22 is a partial perspective view of the broom and the comb in use on the broom.

FIG. 23 is a perspective view of the comb.

FIG. 24 is a top view of the comb

FIG. 25 is a back view of the comb

FIG. 26 is a front view of the comb.

FIG. 27 is an upper perspective view of the dustpan.

FIG. 28 is a top view of the dustpan

FIG. 29 is a bottom view of the dustpan.

FIG. 30 is a side view of the dustpan.

FIG. 31 is a sectional view of the dustpan taken along section lines B-B in FIG. 28.

FIG. 32 is a back view of the dustpan.

FIG. 33 is a front view of the dustpan.

FIG. 34 is a perspective view of the magnetically detachable rod removed from the dustpan.

FIG. 35 is a perspective view of the magnetically detachable rod inserted into the dustpan.

FIG. 36 is partial view of the broom and the dustpan mounted onto the broomstick wherein the broom and the dustpan are in contact with a surface.

FIG. 37 is a perspective view of the magnetic mount with a removable bracket removed.

FIG. 38 is a front view of the magnetic mount.

FIG. 39 is a back view of the magnetic mount.

FIG. 40 is a back perspective view of the magnetic mount with the removable bracket slot removed.

FIG. 41 is a right-side view of the magnetic mount.

FIG. 42 is a left side view of the magnetic mount.

FIG. 43 is a top view of the magnetic mount.

FIG. 44 is a cross sectional view of the magnetic mount taken along section lines D-D IN FIG. 42.

FIG. 45 is a perspective view of the broom partially disassembled and mounted onto the magnetic mount, wherein the magnetically detachable rod is mounted onto a first side of the magnetic mount and the rest of the broom is mounted onto a second side of the magnetic mount.

FIG. 46 is an exploded perspective view of the assembly shown in FIG. 4.

FIG. 47 is an exploded perspective view of the handheld broom.

FIG. 48 is a side view of the handheld broom with a handheld removable bristlehead base removed.

FIG. 49 is a back view of the handheld broom.

FIG. 50 is a front view of the handheld broom with a plurality of the bristles removed.

FIG. 51 is a side view of the handheld broom mounted onto the magnetic mount.

FIG. 52 is a perspective view of the handheld brush mounted onto the magnetic mount.

FIG. 53 is a perspective view of a handheld broomhead with the broomstick and the magnetically detachable rod connected therein.

FIG. 54 is a perspective view of a broomhead with a handheld rod connected therein.

4

FIG. 55 is a perspective view of the handheld broom with the dustpan mounted onto to the handheld rod.

FIG. 56 is a perspective view of the handheld broom with the dustpan and the magnetic mount mounted onto the handheld rod.

FIG. 57 is an exploded view of the assembly shown in FIG. 5.

FIG. 58 is a perspective view of the mini broom.

FIG. 59 is a front view of the mini broom.

FIG. 60 is a side view of the mini broom.

FIG. 61 is a sectional view of the mini broom taken at section lines C-C in FIG. 60.

FIG. 62 is top view of the mini broom

FIG. 63 is a bottom view of the mini broom.

FIG. 64 is a perspective view of the mini broom with the mini bristlehead base removed.

FIG. 65 is a front view of the mini broom with a removable squeegee head base removed.

FIG. 66 is a front view of the mini broom with a removable squeegee head base in place of the mini bristlehead base.

FIG. 67 is a perspective view of the mini dustpan.

FIG. 68 is front view of the mini dustpan.

FIG. 69 is a sideview of the mini dustpan.

FIG. 70 is a sectional view of the mini dustpan taken at section lines E-E. in FIG. 68.

FIG. 71 is a bottom view of the mini dustpan.

FIG. 72 is a top view of the mini dustpan.

FIG. 73 is a perspective view of the mini dustpan with the mini broom connected therein.

FIG. 74 a front view of the mini dustpan with the mini broom connected therein.

FIG. 75 is a perspective view of the mini dustpan with the mini broom connected therein, both magnetically mounted to the magnetic mount.

FIG. 76 is a side view of the mini dustpan with the mini broom connected therein, both magnetically mounted to the magnetic mount.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBJECT DISCLOSURE

Particular embodiments of the subject disclosure will now be described in greater detail with reference to the figures.

The subject disclosure is described with reference to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals are used to refer to like elements throughout. In the following description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present disclosure. It may be evident, however, that the present disclosure may be practiced without these specific details.

It should be noted that the described components of the present subject disclosure are reversibly attachable to other components, such that the components are attachable and detachable, modular and substitutable for other parts. In essence none of the parts are "permanently" or fixedly attached, which allows for versatility in mixing and matching the described parts and other parts not described but contemplated after considering the present subject disclosure.

FIGS. 1-2 shows a magnetic cleaning set 10. Referring to FIG. 2, the magnetic cleaning set 10 has a magnetic mount 300, a broom 100 (see FIG. 1), a dustpan 200, a handheld broom 400, a mini broom 500, and a mini dustpan 550. The magnetic mount 300 may be secured to a wall or another flat object and can hold the broom 100, the handheld broom 400,

5

and the mini broom **500** simultaneously through magnetic attraction. The broom **100** is adapted to receive the dustpan **200** and the mini broom **500** is adapted to receive the mini dustpan **550**. The broom **100** is comprised of a magnetically detachable rod **110**, a broomstick **120**, and a broomhead **130**. The broomhead **130** contains a comb slot **141** that receives a comb **140**.

FIGS. 3-5 show the various assemblies that can be separated from the magnetic cleaning set **10** shown in FIGS. 1-2. FIG. 3 shows the broom **100** hanging from the magnetic mount **300** with the dustpan **200** attached to the broom **100**. FIG. 4 shows the handheld brush **400**, in place of the broom **100** (see FIG. 3), hanging from the magnetic mount **300** with the dustpan **200** connected to the handheld brush **200**. FIG. 5 shows the mini brush **500** and the mini dustpan **550** connected together. The mini brush **500** and mini dustpan **550** combination are magnetically mounted on to the magnetic mount **300**.

FIG. 6 shows an exploded view of the broom **100** with the dustpan **200** attached therein. The broom **100** comprises the broomhead **130**, the broomstick **120**, and the magnetically detachable rod **110**. A rod second end **114** of the magnetically detachable rod **110** cant ins an upper attachment mechanism **170** that mates with a lower attachment mechanism **175** located on a broomstick top **121**. The mating of the magnetically detachable rod **110** and the broomstick **120** will be described in further detail later on. Similarly, a broomstick bottom **122** connects to the broomhead **130** through a tubular section **136** located on a top wall **131** of the broomhead **130**. The mating of the broomhead **130** and the broomstick **120** will also be described in further detail later on. The dustpan **200** may connect to any longitudinal portion along the magnetically detachable rod **110** or the broomstick **120**. The comb **140** can be inserted into and removed from the comb slot **141** that is adapted to receive the comb **140**. Lastly, the broom **100** can be mounted onto the magnetic mount **300** using either the magnetically detachable rod **110** or the broomstick **120**. When mounted, the comb **140** is inserted into the comb slot **141** and the dustpan **200** is mounted onto the magnetically detachable rod **110** or the broomstick **120**.

FIGS. 7-10 show various views of the broom **100**, while FIGS. 11A-11E show a cross section of the broom **100** taken along section lines A-A in FIG. 8.

As shown in FIG. 7, the magnetically detachable rod **110** extends from a first end **101** of the broom **100** towards a second end **102**. The magnetically detachable rod **110** may be a cylindrical rod. Alternatively, the magnetically detachable rod **110** may be another shape such as a square, oval, or a shape with multiple sides such as an octagon. In addition, the magnetically detachable rod **110** may have a hollow core. However, the magnetically detachable rod **110** may instead be filled rather than having a hollow core.

A rod portion **111** of the magnetically detachable rod **110** may be made of a ferromagnetic material such that the rod portion **111** may be attracted to a magnetic component. The magnetic attraction of the rod portion **111** to a magnetic component will allow the broom **100**, or even the magnetically detachable rod **110** by itself, to be mounted to a magnetic hook or a magnetic component through magnetic attraction. Alternatively, the rod portion **111** may be made of other materials as well, such as wood, plastic, or any other non-pliable material. The rod portion **111** may also be covered by a thin coating (not shown) of a material such as plastic or silicone that will improve the aesthetics of the rod portion **111**. The thin coating will allow for any magnetic attraction to occur between the rod portion **111** and another

6

magnetic component. In addition, the thin coating may increase the fictional properties of the rod portion **111** in order to prevent slip between the rod portion **111** and another object.

A handle **112** may be disposed near a rod first end **113**. The handle **112** may be made of a pliable material such as a foam-like material, that circumferentially or radially surrounds a portion of the rod portion **111**. The length of the handle **112** may be large enough in order for a user to grip the handle **112** with their hand. Alternatively, the handle **112** may be longer as well. The purpose of the handle **112** is to allow the user to comfortably grip the magnetically detachable rod **110**. The location of the handle **112** near the rod first end **113** also signifies to a user how the magnetically detachable rod **110** should be held. The handle **112** surrounds a push button **160** that is disposed at the rod first end **113**.

As shown in FIGS. 7, and 11B, the push button **160** may be disposed at the rod first end **113**. Referring to FIG. 11B, a surface **161** of the push button **160** may be circular in shape. Alternatively, the surface **161** of the push button **160** may be square, hexagonal or any other shape. The push button **160** may be smaller in diameter (or alternatively in width) than the magnetically detachable rod **110**. The tolerance between the push button **160** and the magnetically detachable rod **110** allows the push button **160** to move slightly downward into the magnetically detachable rod **110** when the push button **160** is pressed. Alternatively, the push button **160** may have a configuration such that there is larger diameter (or width) portion of the push button **160** that acts as a stop when depressed to allow disengagement of the magnetically detachable rod **110** from another object.

Below the surface **161** of the push button **160**, the push button **160** contains a retaining member **162** that holds the push button **160** in position. The retaining member **162** may be fixedly attached to the push button **160** or substantially in contact with the push button **160**. The retaining member **162** may be a cylindrical cap, having an open end **163** and a closed end **164**. A shoulder or retaining skirt **165** extends radially outward at the open end **163** of the retaining member **162**. Alternately, instead of being cylindrical, the retaining member **162** may be similar in shape to the magnetically detachable rod **110** such that the retaining member **162** can move longitudinally along the magnetically detachable rod **110**. The closed end **164** of the retaining member **162** is substantially in contact with the push button **160**. The open end **163** of the retaining member **162** is adapted to receive a first end **167** of a thin shaft or wire **166** that is substantially rigid. The retaining skirt **165** is positioned beneath an inward ledge **169**, the inward ledge **169** located near the rod first end **113** within the magnetically detachable rod **110**. The inward ledge **169** acts as a stop or barrier to prevent the retaining member **162** from moving further upward toward the rod first end **113**.

When the push button **160** is pressed, the push button **160** extends downwards towards the rod second end **114** (see FIG. 12B). As a result, the retaining member **162**, and the wire **166** therein, is pushed or descended downward towards the rod second end **114** as well. When the push button **160** is released, a biasing element such as a spring, causes the wire **166**, as well as the retaining member **162**, to extend back upward toward the rod first end **113**. The wire **166** and the retaining member are **162** eventually stopped due to the retaining skirt **165** coming into contact with the inward ledge **169**. The upward movement of the retaining member **162**, encouraged by a biasing element, causes the push button **160** to move back up into the unpressed state.

Referring to FIG. 11C, the wire 166 within the magnetically detachable rod 110 extends from the retaining member 162 (see FIG. 11B) downward towards the rod second end 114 (see FIG. 12B). The rod second end 114 contains the upper attachment mechanism 170. The upper attachment mechanism 170 may be a male cap that can be fitted onto the rod portion 111. The upper attachment mechanism 170 extends longitudinally from the rod portion 111 towards the rod second end 114. At the rod second end 114, the upper attachment mechanism 170 has an aperture 171 that can be adapted for an ejecting pin 180 to pass through. Near the aperture 171, the upper attachment mechanism 170 may have a first magnetic connecting piece 119. The first magnetic connecting piece 119 may be a magnetic component or a ferromagnetic material. The first magnetic connecting piece 119 can also be a male snap lock or another similar mechanism to connect the magnetically detachable rod 110 with another rod. The first magnetic connecting piece 119 may be positioned like a ring around the aperture 171 at the rod second end 114. Alternatively, the connecting piece 119 may also be adjacent to the aperture 171.

The upper attachment mechanism 170 may be made of a resilient or non-pliable material such as plastic or metal.

As shown in FIG. 12B, the upper attachment mechanism 170 may have male mating bosses 172 on an outer surface 173 of the male cap 170. The male mating bosses 172 may be protrusions or male threading that are adapted to fit with female mating grooves with similar receiving extrusions. Alternatively, the male mating bosses 172 may be extrusions or female threaded portions that are adapted to fit within male threaded portions or protrusions.

As shown in FIG. 11C, in a rest position, the ejecting pin 180 is located on an inner surface 174 of the upper attachment mechanism 170 and substantially underneath the aperture 171, within the upper attachment mechanism 170. When the push button 160 (see FIG. 11B) is pressed, an ejecting end 181 of the ejecting pin 180 extends through the aperture 171. The ejecting pin 180 has an ejecting end 181 and a base end 182. The ejecting end 181 may be a thin rod with a diameter or thickness smaller than the aperture 171 located on the upper attachment mechanism 170. The ejecting end 181 may be cylindrical, square or any other accommodating shape. The base end 182 of the ejecting pin may be larger in width or diameter than the ejecting end 181. The base end 182 may also be larger in diameter than the aperture 171 on the upper attachment mechanism 170 such that only the ejecting end 181 of the ejecting pin 180 can pass through the aperture 171. Alternatively, the base end 182 may be smaller in width or diameter than the ejecting end 181. The base end 182 may also contain an ejecting bore 183 that is adapted to securely fit the wire 166. The ejecting bore 183 may have mating grooves (not shown) in order to fasten the wire to the ejecting pin 180. Alternatively, the ejecting pin 180 can be secured to the wire 166 through a friction fit between the ejecting bore 183 and the wire 166, or alternatively by an adhesive that secures the ejecting pin 180 and the wire 166 together.

As shown in FIG. 12C, When the push button 160 (see FIG. 11B) is pressed down, the retaining member 162 (see FIG. 11B) in contact with the push button 160 moves downward as well. The downward force of the retaining member 162 causes the wire 166, adapted therein, to move downward as well. The wire second end 168, fitted into the ejecting bore 183 of the ejecting pin 180, pushes the ejecting pin 180 downward and causes the ejecting end 181 to extend through and out of the aperture 171.

As shown in FIGS. 11C and 12C, an ejecting spring 184 may be located around the ejecting end 181 of the ejecting pin 180. Referring to FIG. 11C the ejecting spring 184 may be larger in diameter than the ejecting end 181 such that the ejecting end 181 can pass through the ejecting spring 184 when the ejecting spring 184 is compressed. In addition, the ejecting spring 184 may be larger in diameter than the aperture 171. The difference in size would ensure that the ejecting spring 184 cannot pass through the aperture 171, yet the ejecting end 181 can pass through the ejecting spring 184 and the aperture 171. The ejecting spring 184 may also be smaller than the base end 182 of the ejecting pin 180 such that the base end 182 cannot pass through the ejecting spring 184. The size constraints between the ejecting spring 184 the base end 182, and the aperture 171 causes the ejecting spring 184 to compress between the base end 182 and the rod second end 114, around or near the aperture 171, when a force is acted upon the ejecting pin 180. Alternatively, the ejecting end 181, the ejecting spring 184, the base end 182 and the aperture 171 are not constrained in size.

As shown in FIG. 12C, when a downward force is acted upon the ejecting pin 180, such as the pressing of the push button 160 (see FIG. 12A), the ejecting pin 180 is pushed downwards towards and past the rod second end 114. As a result, the base end 182 of the ejecting pin 180 pushes the ejecting spring 184 downward towards the rod second end 114 as well. The downward force of the base end 182 onto the ejecting spring 184 causes the ejecting spring 184 to compress between the base end 182 and the rod second end 114, near the aperture 171. The compressing of the ejecting spring 184 allows the ejecting end 181 of the ejecting pin 180 to pass through the compressed ejecting spring 184 and out of the aperture 171. When the force is removed, such as the release of the push button 160, the expansion force of the compressed ejecting spring 184, causes the ejecting spring 184 to expand, and with it, push the ejecting pin 180 upwards back through the aperture 171 and back through the ejecting spring 184.

As shown in in FIGS. 7, 11A, and 11C-11D, the broomstick 120 is a long rod that may be cylindrical. Referring to FIG. 7, the broomstick 120 extends from the rod portion 111 towards the second end 102 of the broom 100. The broomstick 120 may contain similar material properties to the magnetically detachable rod 110. For example, as mentioned previously, a broomstick rod 125 may be made of a ferromagnetic material, similar to the rod portion 111 of the mechanically detachable rod 110.

As shown in FIGS. 11C and 12C, the lower attachment mechanism 175 is located at the broomstick top 121 (see FIG. 12B) which engages and disengages with the upper attachment mechanism 170. Referring to FIG. 12C, the lower attachment mechanism 175 is a female cap having an inner base 176 and inner sidewalls 177. The lower attachment mechanism 175 is adapted to receive a male cap such as the upper attachment mechanism 170. A second magnetic connecting piece 178 is located on or beneath the inner base 176. The second magnetic connecting piece 178 may be a magnetic component or a ferromagnetic material. The second magnetic connecting piece 178 can also be a male snap lock or another similar mechanism to connect the broomstick 120 with another rod such as the magnetically detachable rod 110. The second magnetic connecting piece 178 may be shaped like a ring and positioned on the inner base 176. Alternatively, the second magnetic connecting piece 178 may be any other shape covering a portion on or under the inner base 176.

As shown in FIG. 12B, on the inner side walls 177, the lower attachment mechanism 175 may contain female receiving extrusions 179 that are adapted to mate with male mating bosses 172 in the upper attachment mechanism 170. When the upper attachment mechanism 170 and the lower attachment mechanism 175 are connected together, the male mating bosses 172 and the female receiving extrusions 179 prevent the upper attachment mechanism 170 from rotating relative to the lower attachment mechanism 175.

As shown in FIGS. 7, 11C and 12B, when the broom 100 is assembled, the upper attachment mechanism 170 and the lower attachment mechanism 175 are connected together as the upper attachment mechanism 170 is located substantially within the lower attachment mechanism 175. Referring to FIG. 11C the first magnetic connecting piece 119 and the second magnetic connecting piece 178 are connected together and prevent the upper attachment mechanism 170 and the lower attachment mechanism 175 from disengaging from each other. Referring to FIG. 12B, the male mating bosses 172 on the upper attachment mechanism 170 and the female receiving extrusions 179 on the lower attachment mechanism 175 prevent the magnetically detachable rod 110 and the broomstick 120 from rotating relative to each other.

As shown in FIG. 11D, the broomstick bottom 122 may contain a male threaded portion 126 that can be secured to a female threaded portion 127 located within broomhead bore 137 on the broomhead 130. The male threaded portion 126 may also contain other fastening mechanisms to secure the broomstick bottom 122 to another object. For example, the male threaded portion 126 may contain a snap fit, or magnets to secure to objects with a snap fit or oppositely charged magnet or ferromagnetic material. The broomstick bottom 122 may also contain an alternate securing mechanism such as the upper attachment mechanism 170 or the lower attachment mechanism 175 described earlier.

As shown in FIGS. 7-14, the broom 100 cant ins the broomhead 130. Referring to FIG. 7, The broomhead 130 has the top wall 131, a front wall 132 extending perpendicularly from the top wall 131, a back wall 133 extending perpendicularly from the top wall 131, and two side walls 134 extending perpendicularly from the top wall 131 and connecting the front wall 132 to the back wall 133. A bottom wall 135 (see FIG. 14) is located beneath the top wall 131 of the broomhead 130. The walls 132, 133, 134 extend from the top wall 131 in the same direction downwards towards the second end 102 of the broom 100. Alternatively, the walls 132, 133, 134 may extend in another direction as well, such as upward.

As shown in FIGS. 7 and 11D, the tubular section 136 of the broomhead 130 extends from the top wall 131 in a direction towards the first end 101 of the broom 100. Referring to FIG. 11D, the tubular section 136 contains a broom head bore 137 that is adapted to receive the broomstick 120 or a similar rod. The broomhead bore 137 may contain the female threaded portion 127 such that the broomstick 120, or a similar rod having the male threaded portion 126, can be twisted and tightened into the broomhead bore 137. Alternatively, the broomhead bore 137 may contain magnetic components, or any other fastening mechanisms such as a snap fit in order to fasten a rod to into the broomhead bore 137.

As shown in FIGS. 8-9, the front wall 132 of the broomhead 130 may be shorter in height than the backwall 133. Alternatively, the backwall 133 may be shorter in height than the front wall 132. The backwall 133 may contain a scraping edge 138 that can be used to scape unwanted materials from a surface. The larger height of the backwall

133 allows the scraping edge 138 to be closer to the surface that is being cleaned. As will be discussed later on, the user can simply tilt the broomhead 130 in order to allow the scraping edge 138 to come into contact with a surface.

The scraping edge 138 may be made of any material that may be beneficial in the removal of unwanted materials, such as stuck-on food, from a surface. The scraping edge 138 can be made by a variety of materials such as hard plastic, metal, polyurethane, or even rubber. For example, the scraping edge 138 can made of a non-pliable material, such as metal, for surfaces that are not sensitive to scrapers. Alternatively, the scraping edge 138 may be made of rubber or plastic for sensitive surfaces that may be damaged by the use of a metal scraper. In addition, the scraping edge 138 may be made of rubber or polyurethane for gathering liquids on a surface similar to a squeegee.

As shown in FIGS. 9 and 11E, the comb slot 141 is located on the sidewall 134 of the broomhead 130. Referring to FIG. 9, the comb slot 141 may be positioned on a side wall 134, between the top wall 131 and the bottom wall 135 (see FIG. 14). Referring to FIG. 11E, the comb slot 141 contains a receiving aperture 144 that is adapted to receive the comb 140. A locking protrusion 145 is located within the receiving aperture 144 such that the locking protrusion 145 prevents the comb 140 from slipping out of the comb slot 141 without a force applied to pull the comb 140 from engagement with the receiving aperture 145. The locking protrusion 145 may be a protrusion within the comb aperture 144 that prevents the comb 140 from slipping. Alternatively, the locking protrusion 145 may be a magnetic component that is adapted to magnetically attract to an oppositely charged magnetic component, or a ferromagnetic material, on the comb 140 (not shown).

As shown in FIGS. 14-15, the bottom wall 135 contains an indent 139 that is adapted to receive a removeable bristle head base 150. Referring to FIG. 15, a plurality of broom bristles 153 extend from a bristle head bottom 152 located on the removeable bristle head base 150. When the removeable bristle head base 150 is placed within the indent 139, the bristle head bottom 152 and the bottom wall 135 are substantially flush.

The broomhead 130 may contain a snap lock mechanism 154 on or near the indent 139 that connects to an oppositely mating snap lock mechanism 155 located on the removeable bristle head base 150. The oppositely mating snap lock mechanism 155 may be an indent adapted to fit the snap lock mechanism 54. Alternatively, the removable bristle head base 150 may contain fasteners such as Velcro, magnetic components, or screws in order to fasten the removable bristle head base 150 to the bottom wall 135. In the present disclosure, the snap lock mechanism 154 is a ball bearing and the oppositely attracted snap lock mechanism 155 is an indent adapted to receive the ball bearing. Lastly, the removeable bristle head base 150 may contain more than one securement mechanism to ensure that the removable bristle head base 150 is securely connected to the broomhead 130. Alternatively, the removeable bristle head base 150 may be fixedly attached to the bottom wall 135. If desired, a user can remove the removable bristle head base 150 from the bottom all 135 of the broomhead 130 and replace the removeable bristle head base 150 with another removeable cleaning head. This would include a removeable squeegee head (not shown) or a removable mop head (not shown) depending on a user's current needs.

Within the indent 139, the broomhead 130 contains a flexible catch 147 directly underneath the locking protrusion 145 (see FIG. 11D). The flexible catch 147 is a perforated

11

area such that the flexible catch 147 may be able to move slightly up or down. Referring to FIG. 11E, when the comb 140 is inserted into the comb slot 141 and the comb 140 comes into contact with the locking protrusion 145, the resulting force of the comb 140 on the locking protrusion 145, causes the locking protrusion 145 to move slightly downward to allow for the comb 140 to pass. Once the comb 140 is fully inserted, the flexible catch 147 (see FIG. 15) moves back upward and the locking protrusion 145, now elevated, sits between a plurality of comb teeth 146 (see FIG. 23) and prevents the comb 140 from slipping out of the comb slot 141.

As shown in FIGS. 10-11, the broom 100 is in an assembled state. Referring to FIG. 10, starting at the first end 101, the magnetically detachable rod 110 is connected to the broomstick 120. Referring to FIG. 11C, the upper attachment mechanism 170 is fitted into the lower attachment mechanism 175. The first magnetic connecting piece 119, located on the upper attachment mechanism 170, is magnetically attracted to the second magnetic connecting piece 178 located on the lower attachment mechanism 175. As a result, the magnetically detachable rod 110 cannot be easily removed from the broomstick 120. In addition, the male mating bosses 172 (see FIG. 12B) and the receiving extrusions 179 (see FIG. 12B) are aligned such that the magnetically detachable rod 110 and the broomstick 120 cannot rotate relative to one another when connected.

Referring to FIG. 11D and moving lower down the broom 100, the broomstick 120 is connected to the broomhead 130 through the male threaded portion 126 on the broomstick 120 and broom head bore 137 located on the tubular section 136 of the broomhead 130. The male threaded portion 126 is inserted into the broomhead bore 137 and is fastened to the broomhead 130 by twisting the broomstick 120 into the broomhead 130 and using the male threaded portion 126 on the broomstick 120 and the female threaded portion 127 within the broomhead bore 137 to secure the broomstick 120 to the broomhead 130. Alternatively, as discussed above, the mating between the broomhead 130 and the broomstick bottom 122 may be similar to the mating between the magnetically detachable rod 110 and the broomstick 120.

As shown in FIGS. 12A-C, the broom 100 can be disassembled. Referring to FIG. 12A, the magnetically detachable rod 110 can be removed from the broomstick 120 by pressing the push button 160 located at the rod first end 113. Referring to FIG. 12C, when the push button 160 (see FIG. 12A) is pressed down with sufficient force to overcome the compressive force of the ejecting spring 184, the wire 166 is pushed downward toward the rod second end 114. The wire second end 168, in turn, pushes the ejecting pin 180 downward towards the rod second end 114 as well. The downward force of the ejecting pin 180 overcomes the compressive force of the ejecting spring 184 and causes the ejecting spring 184 to compress between the rod second end 114 and the base end 182 of the ejecting pin 180. When the ejecting spring 184 is compressed, the ejecting end 181 can pass through the compressed ejecting spring 184 and through the aperture 171. The ejecting end 181, now in contact with the inner base 176 of the lower attachment mechanism 175, pushes against the inner base 176 and separates the first magnetic connecting piece 119 from the second magnetic connecting piece 178. The magnetically detachable rod 110 and the broomstick 120 can now be disconnected with ease as the first magnetic connecting piece 119 and the second magnetic connecting piece 178 are no longer holding the broomstick 120 and the magnetically detachable rod 110 together. Once the magnetically detach-

12

able rod 110 and the broomstick are disconnected, the user can release the push button 160 (see FIG. 12A) and allow the ejecting end 181 to return back into the upper attachment mechanism 170.

As shown in FIGS. 16A-17, the advantage of a back wall 133 and a front wall 132 with varying lengths allows the broom 100 to perform different functions when swept in different directions. Referring to FIGS. 16A-16B, when the broom 100 is swept in a direction where the back wall 133 is close to and facing a surface, the broom 100 causes the plurality of broom bristles 153 to feel soft due to the relatively free movement of the plurality of broom bristles 153. A user would use the broom 100 in this direction when cleaning easy messes or on sensitive surfaces. In addition, as shown in FIG. 16A-16B, the scraping edge 138 can be used to scrape off harder to clean stains on a surface. A pressure is applied onto the broom 100, or alternatively the broom 100 is angled slightly in the direction of the scraping edge 138, and as a result the scraping edge 138 comes into contact with a surface. The scraping edge 138 can also be used as a squeegee to guide gathered liquids on a surface into a collecting area to be disposed of.

Alternatively, in FIG. 17, when the broom 100 is angled such that the front wall 132 is close to and facing a surface, the length of the back wall 133 stiffens the plurality of broom bristles 153 as the plurality of broom bristles 153 are no longer given the freedom to move as easily. The stiffness of the plurality of broom bristles 153 allows the user to clean surfaces that would require stiffer broom bristles.

As shown in FIGS. 18-19, the broom 100 may be mounted onto the magnetic mount 300. As explained earlier, the rod portion 111 may be made of a ferromagnetic material and therefore can be magnetically mounted onto the magnetic mount 300. Additionally, because the broomstick 120 may be made of a ferromagnetic material as well, the broom 100 can be magnetically mounted to the magnetic mount 300 through the broomstick 120 as well. To mount the broom 100 onto the magnetic mount 300, the user simply places the broom 100 within a first side indent 305 on the magnetic mount wherein a magnetic element 306 (see FIG. 43) magnetically attracts the broom 100 to the magnetic mount 300. It is understood that the broom 100 may be mounted on to other portions of the magnetic mount 300 that is capable of magnetically attracting the broom 100. More detail of the attraction between the broom 100 and the magnetic mount 300 will be discussed later on. In order to remove the broom 100 from the magnetic mount 300 the user simply grabs any portion of the broom 100 and pulls to overcome the magnetic forces between the broom 100 and the magnetic mount 300.

FIGS. 20-22 show the use of the comb 140. As shown in FIG. 20, the comb 140 may be removed from the comb slot 141. The pull tag 143 may be used to conveniently remove the comb 140 from the comb slot 141. Alternatively, another area of the comb 140 may be gripped in order to remove the comb 140 from the comb slot 141.

Referring to FIGS. 21-22, to use the comb 140, The user grips a portion of the comb 140 and slides the plurality of comb teeth 146 through the plurality of broom bristles 153 to remove any debris stuck in the plurality of broom bristles 153. The user then grips a portion of the comb 140 and slides the comb 140 back into the comb slot 141. The user will understand that the comb 140 is fully inserted into comb slot 141 from the resulting clicking sound made by the locking protrusion 145 (see FIG. 11E) when the locking protrusion 144 receives the comb 140.

13

FIGS. 23-26 show various views of the comb 140. The comb 140 may have the plurality of comb teeth 146. The comb 140 may be a fine-tooth comb such that the plurality of comb teeth 146 are spaced evenly and very close together. By spacing the plurality of comb teeth 146 close together, the comb 140 can thoroughly clean the plurality of broom bristles 153 (see FIG. 20) even when smaller objects are trapped within the plurality of broom bristles 153. Alternatively, the comb 140 may be an all-purpose comb such that the plurality of comb teeth 146 are not spaced evenly. By having different special relationships between the plurality of comb teeth 146, a user can use the comb 140 for various tasks. For example, when a larger object is stuck in the plurality of broom bristles 153, a user can use a section of the comb 140 where the plurality of comb teeth 146 are spaced further apart. Similarly, when a smaller object is trapped between the broom bristles 153, the user can use a section of the comb 140 where the plurality of comb teeth 146 are spaced closer together.

FIG. 27 shows a perspective view of the dustpan 200. The dustpan 200 has a collecting area 201, a dustpan back wall 202 extending perpendicularly from the collecting area 201, two dustpan sidewalls 203 extending perpendicularly from the collecting area 201 and connected to the dustpan back wall 202, and a free edge 204. A dustpan handle 220 may extend from the dustpan back wall 202 in a direction opposite the collecting area 201.

As shown in FIGS. 27 and 31, the dustpan 200 may have a dustpan attachment mechanism 210 that extends perpendicularly from the collecting area 201. Referring to FIG. 31, the dustpan attachment mechanism 210 may be a cylindrical cup wherein the dustpan attachment mechanism 210 has a closed end 211 and an open end 212. Alternatively, the dustpan attachment mechanism 210 may take another shape as well, such as rectangular or octagonal. Similar to the lower attachment mechanism 175 (Shown in FIG. 12C), the dustpan attachment mechanism 210 is adapted to receive a rod such as the magnetically detachable rod 110 (see FIG. 12A). The dustpan attachment mechanism 210 may have female mating grooves 213 on a dustpan mechanism sidewall 214 that are adapted to align with the male mating bosses 172 on the magnetically detachable rod 110 (see FIG. 12B). In addition, the closed end 211 of the dustpan attachment mechanism 210 may contain a third magnetic connecting piece 215 that will magnetically attract to the first magnetic connecting piece 119 on the magnetically detachable rod 110 (see FIG. 12C).

The dustpan 200 may be made of any non-pliable material such as a hard plastic like acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS). Alternatively, the dustpan 200 may be of any nonporous material that is capable of holding debris in the dustpan 200.

As shown in FIGS. 27-33, the dustpan 200 may have a dustpan handle 220 that extends from the dustpan back wall 202 in a direction away from the collecting area 201. Referring to FIG. 28, the dustpan handle 220 may be semicylindrical having a handle inner surface 221 and a handle outer surface 222. Alternatively, the dustpan handle 220 may be another shape as well. The handle inner surface 221 may have a diameter or width that substantially similar to the magnetically detachable rod 110 or the broomstick 120 (see FIG. 6). The similarity in diameter or width between the handle inner surface 221 and the magnetically detachable rod 110 will allow a user to mount the dustpan 200 to the broom 100, as shown in FIG. 6. The handle inner surface 221 may be made comprised of a thin coating (not shown) of a material such as silicon or rubber, that would

14

prevent the dustpan 200 from slipping on the broom 100. The coating would be thin enough to allow for a magnetic attraction to pass through, provided that a magnetic element or a ferromagnetic material is placed under the coating.

Referring to FIG. 31 the dustpan handle 220 may have a magnetic element 223 disposed on or within the dustpan handle 220. The magnetic element 223 may be disposed between the handle inner surface 221 and the handle outer surface 222. The magnetic element 223 can be used to magnetically attract the dustpan 200 to a section of the broom 100 that contains ferromagnetic materials such as the rod portion 111 of magnetically detachable rod 110 or the broomstick 120. Alternatively, instead of the magnetic element 223, the dustpan 200 may contain a hook or another securing mechanism (not shown) to connect the dustpan 200 to the broom 100 (see FIG. 6) when the dustpan 200 is not in use. As shown in FIG. 31, in the present disclosure, the dustpan handle 220 contains two magnetic elements 223 encased between the handle inner surface 221 and the handle outer surface 222. A thin coating (not shown) on the handle inner surface 221 allow the magnetic attractions to pass through the handle inner surface 221 and to mate with another magnetic element or ferromagnetic material.

Continuing in FIG. 31, to mount the dustpan 200 to the broom 100 (as shown in FIG. 3), a user simply grabs the handle outer surface 222 and places the handle inner surface 221 in contact with a section of the broom 100 (see FIG. 6.). The magnetic attraction between the broom 100 and the magnetic elements 223 disposed in the dustpan handle 220, hold the dustpan 200 and the broom 100 together. To remove the dustpan 200 from the broom 100 (See FIG. 6), the user simply overcomes the magnetic force between the dustpan 200 and the broom 100 by gripping a portion of the dustpan 200 and pulling, with a force greater than the force of the magnetic attraction, in a direction opposite of the broom 100.

As shown in FIGS. 27-33, the dustpan 200 contains a free edge 204. Referring to FIG. 27, the free edge 204 may be angled downward relative to the collecting area 201. The angle may vary between zero and ninety degrees. When the dustpan 200 is placed on a flat surface, such as a floor or countertop, the angle of the free edge 204 limits any gaps between the free edge 204 and a flat surface. As a result, when particles or liquids are swept, the particles are swept up the free edge 204 and into the collecting area 201 of the dustpan 200. In contrast, when the free edge 204 is not angled, particles that are swept into the dustpan 200 may travel between a gap that may be created between the free edge 204 and a surface. In addition, the angled free edge 204 causes the dustpan 200 to be angled slightly such that the collecting area 201 is angled downward towards the dustpan back wall 202. As a result, any liquids or particles that are swept into the dustpan 200 will travel down the collecting area 201 towards the dustpan back wall 202. The resulting angled collecting area 201 ensures that liquids and particles remain in the dustpan 200 until a user decides to empty the contents within the dustpan 200.

The free edge 204 may be made of rubber, plastic or another material that would aid in the scooping of particles off a surface. In addition, the free edge 204 may be used to scrape harder to clean surfaces that may have unwanted particles stuck to the surface. Also, the free edge 204 of the dustpan 200 can be used as a squeegee to gather liquids on a surface.

As shown in FIG. 27, the collecting area 201 of the dustpan 200 may contain textured protrusions 218. The textured protrusions 218 inhibit the movement of particles or

15

liquids within the dustpan **200**. In addition, when an ordinary broom is swept onto the dustpan **200**, the textured protrusions **218** aid in the removal of particles that may be attached to bristles on an ordinary broom.

As shown in FIGS. **34-35**, the magnetically detachable rod **110** may be connected to the dustpan **200**. Similar to the previous broom assembly **100** described in FIG. **6**, the magnetically detachable rod **110** can be attached to the dustpan **200** by simply placing the upper attachment mechanism **170** within the dustpan attachment mechanism **210**. The male mating bosses **172** will align with the female mating grooves **213** and prevent the magnetically detachable rod **110** from twisting relative to the dustpan **200**. In addition, the first magnetic connecting piece **119** located at the rod second end **114** (Shown in FIG. **12C**) will magnetically attract to the third magnetic connecting piece **215** located at the closed end **212** of the dustpan attachment mechanism **210** (Shown in FIG. **31**). The magnetic attraction between the first magnetic connecting piece **119** (See FIG. **12C**) and the third magnetic connecting piece **215** (see FIG. **31**) will prevent the magnetically detachable rod **110** from being removed from the dustpan **200** unless a sufficient force is used to overcome the magnetic attraction.

Continuing in FIGS. **34-35**, once the magnetically detachable rod **110** and the dustpan **200** are connected, the user is free to grip the magnetically detachable rod **110** by the handle **112** and use the magnetically detachable rod **110** to control the dustpan **200**.

To remove the magnetically detachable rod **110**, the user presses on the push button **160** located on the magnetically detachable rod **110**. The pressing of the push button **160** causes the ejecting pin **180** to be ejected at the rod second end **114**. The ejecting pin **180** pushes against the third magnetic connecting piece **215**, or alternatively near the third magnetic connecting piece **215** (see FIG. **31**) and overcomes the magnetic attraction between first magnetic connecting piece **119** (See FIG. **12C**) and the third magnetic connecting piece **215**. While holding the push button **160**, the user pulls the magnetically detachable rod **110** away from the dustpan **200** to remove the magnetically detachable rod **110** from the dustpan **200**.

As shown in FIG. **36**, the broom **100** and dustpan **200** comprise a simple cleaning assembly **700**. The simple cleaning assembly **700** stands vertically and freely on a surface. The length from the dustpan backwall **202** to the dustpan free edge **204** may be substantially similar to the length from a tubular section top **148** of the broomhead **130** to the broom second end **102**. In the simple cleaning assembly **700**, the handle inner surface **221** is substantially in contact with the broomstick rod **125** and the dustpan backwall **202** is substantially in contact with the tubular section top **148**. As a result, the free edge **204** of the dustpan **200** and the broom second end **102** will both be extending the same distance. The dustpan free edge **204** and the broom second end **102** are substantially in contact with a surface, while the broomstick **120** is substantially vertical. This configuration allows for the simple cleaning assembly **700** to stand freely. The broom second end **102** and the free edge **204** act as a base to support the simple cleaning assembly **700** in an upright vertical state. It is understood that the distance from the dustpan backwall **202** to the free edge **204** may be longer while still allowing for the simple cleaning assembly **700** to stand freely on a surface. To do so, the dustpan **200** is mounted on to the broom **100**, a distance closer to the broom first end **101** (see FIG. **7**) to compensate for the larger distance of the dustpan **200** length. The mass of the dustpan **200** coupled with the mass of the broom **100**

16

creates a center of mass positioned between the dustpan **200** and the broom **100** that allows for the simple cleaning assembly to stand vertically. It is further understood that the dustpan **200** and the broom **100** may have differing sizes while still allowing for a center of mass located between the broom **100** and the dustpan **200**. Any change in size or mass of the broom **100** may be accompanied by a change in size or mass of the dustpan **200** to compensate for the shift in the center of mass.

The plurality of bristles **153** may be uniform in length such that a larger surface area of the plurality of broom bristles **153** are in contact with a surface. The larger surface area would aid in the standing of the simple cleaning assembly **700**,

FIGS. **37-39** show the magnetic mount **300**. Referring to FIG. **37**, the magnetic mount **300** is a block having a front surface **301**, a back surface **302**, a first mounting side wall **303** extending from the front surface **301** to the back surface **302**, and a second mounting sidewall **304** extending from the front surface **301** to the back surface **302**. The first mounting sidewall **303** and the second mounting sidewall **304** may be located on different sides of the magnetic mount **300**. Alternatively, they can be on the same side of the magnetic mount **300** as well. The magnetic mount **300** may be cylindrical such that the first mounting sidewall **303** and the second mounting sidewall **304** are substantially curved, while the front surface **301** and back surface **302** are substantially flat.

The front surface **301** may have a skirt **308** that extends radially outward. As a result, the front surface **301** may contain a larger surface area than the back surface **302**. Alternatively, the front surface **301** may have a smaller surface area than the back surface **302**.

As shown in FIGS. **9-40** the back surface **302** may have a wall mount **320** to secure the magnetic mount **300** to a surface. Referring to FIG. **40**, the wall mount **320** consists of a removable bracket **321** and a bracket slot **322**. The removable bracket **321** can be inserted into and removed from the bracket slot **322**. When the removable bracket **321** is inserted into the bracket slot **322** the removable bracket **321** and the back surface **302** are substantially flush.

The removable bracket **321** is a plate having two sides, a wall side **323** and a mount side **324** (see FIG. **37**), wherein the wall side **323** is substantially flush with the rear surface **302** of the magnetic mount **300**. The removable bracket **321** may contain a through hole **325** extending from the mount side **324** to the wall side **323**. The through hole **325** is used to mount the removable bracket **321** to a surface such as a wall. A user may place a screw into the through hole **325** to secure the removable bracket **321** to a surface. More than one through hole **325** may be placed on the removable bracket **321** to ensure proper securement of the removable bracket **321** to a wall or another flat surface.

A finger indent **326** may be located on the wall side **323** of the removable bracket **321**. The purpose of the finger indent **326** is to allow a user to grip a portion of the removable bracket **321**, by placing their finger within the finger indent **326**, and sliding the removable bracket **321** out of the bracket slot **322**. Beneath the finger indent **326**, on the mount side **324** the removable bracket **321** contains a mount protrusion **327** (see FIG. **37**) that is adapted to mate with a mount extrusion **328** located within the bracket slot **322**. The purpose of the mount protrusion **327** and the mount extrusion **328** is to ensure that the removable bracket **321** is not easily removed from the bracket slot **322**. In addition, a user will understand that the removable bracket **321** is fully

17

inserted into the bracket slot **322** from a resulting clicking sound when the mount protrusion **327** and mount extrusion **328** are properly mated.

The removable bracket **321** also contains a shoulder **329** along a side of the removable bracket **321**. The shoulder **329** is adapted to slide within a flange **330** located in the bracket slot **322**. The shoulder **329** ensures that the removable bracket **321** is secured within the bracket slot **322** when the shoulder **329** is slid into the flange **330**.

To secure the magnetic mount **300** to a surface, a user removes the removable bracket **321** using the finger indent **326**. The user then places the removable bracket **321** against a surface with the wall side **323** of the removable bracket **321** substantially in contact with the surface. A screw is then placed through the through hole **325** and into a surface to secure the removable bracket **321** to a surface. Next, the user holds the magnetic mount **300** with the rear surface **302** facing the surface. The user then slides the magnetic mount **300** onto the removable bracket **321** through the bracket slot **322** boated on the rear surface **302**. A user will understand that the removable bracket **321** is correctly inserted into the bracket slot **322** when they hear the resulting click from the mount extrusion **327** and mount protrusion **328** mating together.

Alternatively, instead of the wall mount **320** shown in FIGS. **39-40**, the magnetic mount **300** may contain another means to secure the magnetic mount **300** to a surface. For example, the magnetic mount **300** may contain Velcro, a magnet, or even an adhesive, to mount the magnetic mount **300** to another surface.

As shown in FIGS. **41-43**, the magnetic mount **300** contains the first mounting sidewall **303** and the second mounting sidewall **304**. Referring to FIG. **43**, the first mounting sidewall **303** may contain a first side indent **305**. The first side indent **305** may be semicylindrical in shape. Alternatively, the first side indent **305** may be a similar shape to the rod portion **111** of the magnetically detachable rod **110** (See FIG. **7**) or the broomstick **120**. The first side indent **305** is adapted to receive the broom **100** (see FIG. **7**) or any other device or apparatus with a similar shape. A first side indent surface **307** may be covered in a thin coating such as rubber, silicon, or plastic (not shown). The thin coating may be used to increase the frictional properties between the broom **100** and the magnetic mount **300** to prevent slip.

Similarly, the second mounting sidewall **304** may contain a second side indent **309**. The second side indent **309** may be semicylindrical in shape. Alternatively, the second side indent **309** may be a similar shape to the rod portion **111** or the broomstick **120** of the broom (See FIG. **6**). The second side indent **309** is adapted to receive the broom **100** or any other device or apparatus with a similar shape. A second side indent surface **310** may be covered in a thin coating (not shown) such as rubber, silicon, or plastic. The thin coating may be used to increase the frictional properties between the broom **100** and the magnetic mount **300** to prevent slip.

As shown in FIG. **44**, the magnetic element **306** may be disposed within the magnetic mount **300** between the first side indent **305** and the second side indent **309**. Alternatively, the magnetic element **306** may be disposed on the first side indent surface **307** or the second side indent surface **310** (See FIG. **43**). The purpose of the magnetic element **306** is to create a magnetic attraction between the magnetic element **306** and a ferromagnetic rod that is positioned within the first side indent **305** or the second side indent **309**.

A magnetic element **311** may be disposed at or substantially near the front surface **301**. The purpose of the magnetic

18

element **311** is to magnetically attract various ferromagnetic cleaning devices such as the minibroom **500** and the mini dustpan **550** (see FIG. **5**).

As shown in FIG. **45**, the broom **100** is partially disassembled and connected to the magnetic mount **300**. The magnetically detachable rod **110** is disposed within the first side indent **305**. The magnetically detachable rod **110** is held in position due to the frictional properties of the first side indent surface **306** and the magnetic attraction between the magnetic element **306** (shown in FIG. **44**) and the magnetically detachable rod **110**. Similarly, the broomstick **120** is disposed within the second side indent **309**. The broomstick **120** is held in position due to the frictional properties of the second side indent surface **310** and the magnetic element **306** (shown in FIG. **44**).

To remove the magnetically detachable rod **110** from the magnetic mount **300**, the user simply grips a portion of the magnetically detachable rod **110** and pulls the magnetically detachable rod **110** out of the first side indent **305**, thereby overcoming the magnetic force between the magnetically detachable rod **110** and the magnetic element **306** disposed within the magnetic mount **300**. A similar process is required to remove the broomstick **120** from the second side indent **309**.

To mount the broom **100** onto the magnetic mount **300** (as shown in FIGS. **17-18**) the user simply places the rod portion **111** of the broom **100** within the first side indent **305**. The magnetic element **306** (See FIG. **44**) disposed within the magnetic mount **300** attracts the rod portion **111** that is comprised of a ferromagnetic material, and as a result, the rod portion **111** is substantially in contact with the first side indent surface **307**. The frictional properties between the rod portion **111** and the first side indent surface **307** increases the securement between the broom **100** and the magnetic mount **300**. Similar to the rod portion **111**, The broom **100** can also be mounted to the magnetic mount **300** through the broomstick **120** or through the second side indent **309**.

FIG. **46** shows an exploded view of the assembly in FIG. **4**. As will be discussed later on, the dustpan **200** may be mounted onto the handheld broom **400** through magnetic attraction. The resulting handheld broom **400** and dustpan **200** combination may be mounted onto the magnetic mount **300**.

FIGS. **47-50** show the handheld broom **400**. Referring to FIG. **47**, the handheld broom **400** contains a handheld rod **410** and a handheld broomhead **420**. The handheld rod **410** may be a cylindrical rod with a handheld rod top **411** and a handheld rod bottom **412** similar to the broomstick **120** (see FIG. **6**). Near the handheld rod bottom **412**, the handheld broom **400** may contain a male threaded portion **413** similar to that of the broomstick **120** (as shown in FIG. **11D**). The male threaded portion **413** may be twisted and secured to a female threaded portion **425** on the handheld broom head **420**. In addition, the male threaded portion **413** on the handheld broom **400** may be twisted and secured to similar receiving threaded portions such as the female threaded portion **127** on the broomstick **120** (see FIG. **11D**). Alternatively, the handheld rod bottom **412** may be similar to the magnetically detachable rod **110** (See FIG. **12C**). Similar to the magnetically detachable rod **110**, the handheld rod bottom **412** may contain an upper attachment mechanism (not shown) that is adapted to be secured to a device adapted to receive an upper attachment mechanism such as the lower attachment mechanism **175** on the broomstick **120** (see FIG. **12C**).

The handheld rod **410** may be similarly constructed as the broomstick **120** (see FIG. **6**). The handheld rod **410** may be

19

made of a ferromagnetic material. The ferromagnetic material will allow the handheld broom **400** to be magnetically attracted to the magnetic mount **300** (see FIG. **46**) or to the dustpan handle **220** (See FIG. **46**). In addition, the handheld rod **410** may be covered in a thin coating (not shown) such as silicone, rubber, or plastic in order to increase the frictional properties of the handheld rod **410**. The increase in frictional properties will minimize slip between the handled rod **410** and the dustpan handle **220** or between the handheld rod **410** and the magnetic mount **300**.

The handheld rod **410** may also contain magnetic elements (not shown) such that the handheld rod **410** may be attracted to ferromagnetic surfaces. The magnetic elements (not shown) may be disposed near the handheld rod top **411** such that the handheld rod top **411** may be magnetically attracted to a ferromagnetic surface. Alternately, the magnetic elements (not shown) may be disposed in any portion of the handheld rod **410** or the handheld broomhead **420**.

The handheld broomhead **420** has a handheld broomhead top **421** and a handheld broomhead bottom **422**. The handheld broomhead top **421** may contain a handheld tubular section **423**. The handheld tubular section **423** may contain a handheld bore **424** that is adapted to receive a rod such as the handled rod **410** or the broomstick **120** (see FIG. **11D**). The handheld bore **424** may have the female threaded portion **425** within the handheld bore **424** that is adapted to mate with the male threaded portion **413** of the handheld rod **410** or the male threaded portion **126** of the broomstick **120** (see FIG. **11D**). Alternatively, the handheld broomhead **420** may be constructed similar to the lower attachment mechanism **175** of the broomstick **120** (See FIG. **12C**). As a result, the handheld broomhead **420** may be connected to the magnetically detachable rod **110** similar to the magnetic mating between the magnetically detachable rod **110** and the broomstick **120** as shown in FIG. **12C**.

As shown in FIG. **48**, the handheld bristlehead base **430** may be secured to a handheld broomhead side **426**. The handheld bristlehead base **430** may contain a plurality of bristles **431** extending from the handheld bristlehead base **430**. The handheld broomhead side **426** may be semi-cylindrical in shape wherein the handheld bristlehead base **430** extends from a flat side **427** of the handheld broomhead side **426**. Alternatively, the handheld broomhead side **426** may be another shape as well. In addition, the handheld bristlehead base **430** may extend from another section of the handheld broomhead **420** as well.

The handheld bristlehead base **430** may be fixedly attached to the handheld broomhead side **426**. Alternatively, the handheld bristlehead base **430** may be detachable from the handheld broomhead **420** similar to the removable bristle head base **150** on the broom **100** (as shown in FIG. **14**). As a result, the handheld bristlehead base **430** may be removed and replaced with a handheld squeegee head or a similar removeable cleaning head (not shown).

The handheld broomhead bottom **422** may contain a scraping edge **428** extending from the handheld broomhead bottom **422**. The scraping edge **428** may be made of silicon, rubber, plastic, or any other material suitable for scraping unwanted stains on a surface the scraping edge **428** may also be used to gather liquids on a surface. In addition, the scraping edge **428** may extend from the handheld broom **400** at an angle in order to allow the user to grip the handheld broom **400** at a comfortable angle when scraping.

As shown in FIGS. **51-52**, the handheld broom **400** may be mounted to the magnetic mount **300** through magnetic attraction. The handheld broom **400** may be placed within the first side indent **305** such that the handled rod **410** is

20

magnetically attracted to the magnetic element **306** (See FIG. **44**) of the magnetic mount **300**. Alternatively, the handheld broom **400** may be placed within the second side indent **309** (see FIG. **52**) of the magnetic mount **300** such that the handheld rod **410** is magnetically attracted to the magnetic element **306** on the magnetic mount **300**.

As shown in FIGS. **53-54**, the handled rod **410** and the broomstick **120** can be interchanged between the handheld broomhead **420** and the broomhead **130**. As explained earlier, the male threaded portion **413** on the handheld rod **410** (see FIG. **47**) and the male threaded portion **126** on the broomstick **120** (see FIG. **11D**) may be similar, allowing for the handheld rod **410** and the broomstick **120** to be interchanged.

Referring to FIG. **53**, the handheld rod **410** (see FIG. **54**) may be removed from the handheld broomhead **420**. In its place, the broomstick **120**, with the magnetically detachable rod **110** connected therein, may be secured to the handheld broomhead **420**. The benefit of securing the broomstick **120** to the handheld broomhead **420** is that a user can now clean areas that may require a different sized rod. For example, a user can use the assembly in FIG. **53** to clean windows, ceiling fans, or shelves that may be more difficult to reach when using the traditional handheld broom **400** assembly (as shown in FIG. **47**).

Alternatively, as shown in FIG. **54**, the broomstick **120** (see FIG. **53**) may be removed from the broomhead **130**, and in its place, the handheld rod **410** may be secured to the broomhead **130**. The benefit of a smaller rod on the broomhead **130** allows a user to clean areas that do not require a larger rod. For example, a user may use the assembly shown in FIG. **54** to clean countertops, shelves or windows that are positioned relatively close to the user.

As shown in FIGS. **55-56**, the dustpan **200** may be magnetically attracted to the handheld broom **400**. Referring to FIG. **55**, the magnetic element **223** (see FIG. **31**) disposed within the dustpan handle **220** is magnetically attracted to the handheld rod **410**. In addition, referring to FIG. **56**, the length of the handheld rod **410** may be long enough such that the dustpan handle **220** may be magnetically connected to the handheld rod **410** while the handheld rod **410** is magnetically attracted to the magnetic mount **300**.

FIG. **57** shows an exploded view of the assembly shown in FIG. **5**. The assembly includes the mini broom **500**, the mini dustpan **550** and the magnetic mount **300**.

FIGS. **58-63** show various views of the mini broom **500**. Referring to FIG. **58**, the mini broom **500** is a cleaning device comprising a mini broom first end **501** and a mini broom second end **502**. A top portion **503** extends from the mini broom first end **501** towards the mini broom second end **502**. A bottom portion **504** extends from the mini broom second end **502** towards the mini broom first end **501** and connects to the top portion **503** at an angle.

The angle between the top portion **503** and the bottom portion **504** allows for the mini broom **500** to be connected to the mini dustpan **550** (see FIG. **67**) as will be discussed later on.

As shown in FIG. **61**, a magnetic element **508** may be disposed within the bottom portion **504** of the mini broom **500**. Alternatively, the magnetic element **508** may be disposed within the top portion **503** of the mini broom **500**. The purpose of the magnetic element **508** is to allow a user to magnetically mount the mini broom **500** to a ferromagnetic or magnetic surface when the user is not using the mini broom **500**. For example, the mini broom **500** may be magnetically mounted to the mini dustpan **550** (see FIG. **75**) or to the front surface **301** of the magnetic mount **300**.

21

As shown in FIG. 64, the bottom portion 504 of the mini broom 500 may contain a receiving portion 505 such that the receiving portion 505 is adapted to receive various cleaning devices such as a mini bristle head base 520. The receiving portion is an indent within the bottom portion 504 of the mini broom 500 extending a predetermined distance from the mini broom second end 502 towards the mini broom first end 501.

The mini broom 500 may contain the mini bristle head base 520 at the mini broom second end 502. The mini bristle head base 520 may be detachably removed from the mini broom 500. The receiving portion 505 is adapted to receive the mini bristlehead base 520 such that the mini bristle head base 520 is disposed substantially within the receiving portion 505. A plurality of mini bristles 521 may extend from the mini bristlehead base 520.

The mini bristle head base 520 may be secured to the receiving portion 505 similar to the securement of the removable bristle head base 150 on the broomhead 130 (as shown in FIG. 15). In the present disclosure, the mini bristlehead base 520 contains a mini protrusion 522 that is adapted to fit into a mini notch 509 within the receiving portion 505. Near the mini protrusion 522, the mini bristlehead base 520 contains a gap 523 to allow for the mini protrusion 522 to be flexible and allow some clearance such that the mini protrusion 522 can be fitted into the mini notch 509. Alternatively, the mini bristlehead base 520 may be secured to the minibroom 500 with magnetic elements (not shown) disposed on the mini bristlehead base 520 and magnetic elements (not shown) disposed within the receiving portion 520.

As shown in FIGS. 65-66 the mini bristlehead base 520 (see FIG. 64) can be replaced with a mini squeegee head base 530. The mini squeegee head base 530 has a squeegee portion 531 extending from the mini squeegee head base 530 similar to the mini bristle head base 520 (See FIG. 64). The squeegee portion 531 may be made of a pliable material such as silicone or rubber. The pliable material would aid in the gathering of liquids on a surface. Alternatively, the squeegee portion 531 may be made of a non-pliable material as well. The benefit of a mini squeegee head base 530 is to allow a user to gather and remove liquids off of a surface such as countertops. The user may gather the liquids into the mini dustpan 550 (see FIG. 64) or simply use the squeegee portion 531 to gather the liquids into a nearby sink or basin. The mini squeegee head base 530 may be constructed similar to the mini bristle head base 520 such that the mini squeegee head base 530 can be inserted into the receiving portion 505 of the mini broom 500.

FIGS. 67-72 show various views of the mini dustpan 550.

As shown in FIG. 67 the mini dustpan 550 is a cleaning device having a front side 551 and a back side 552. The front side 551 of the mini dustpan 550 comprises a mini collecting area 553, a mini backwall 554 extending at an angle from the mini collecting area 553, a mini free edge 555 extending from the mini collecting area 553 opposite the mini backwall 554, and two sidewalls 556, extending from the mini back wall 554 towards the mini free edge 555.

The mini free edge 555 may be angled in a direction opposite of the mini backwall 554, similar to the dustpan 200 (See FIG. 27). The purpose of the angle on the mini free edge 555 is to allow debris and other unwanted materials to be easily swept into mini collecting area 553 of the mini dustpan 550. The mini free edge 555 may also be used as a scraping edge to scrape unwanted materials off a surface, or as a squeegee to gather liquids on a surface. The mini free edge 555 may be made of rubber, silicon, plastic, or any

22

other material that can be used to gather liquids on a surface or to scrape unwanted materials off of a surface.

The mini dustpan 550 may have a size similar to that of the mini broom 500 (see FIG. 58) such that the top portion 503 and the bottom portion 504 of the mini broom 500 will substantially fit longitudinally between the back wall 554 and the free edge 555 of the mini dustpan 550, and laterally between the sidewalls 556 of the mini dustpan 550.

The mini backwall 554 may be angled relative to the mini collecting area 553. The angled mini backwall 554 ensures that liquids or materials cannot easily escape through the mini backwall 554 when swept into the mini collecting area 553. In addition, the mini backwall 554 may have a similar angle as the angle between the top portion 503 and the bottom portion 504 of the mini broom 500 (see FIG. 58) such that the mini broom 500 may fit within the mini dustpan 550 for easy storage.

The mini dustpan may have a magnetic element 558 disposed between the front surface 551 and the back surface 552 of the mini dustpan 550. The magnetic element 558 may also extend from the front surface 551 towards the back surface 552 of the mini dustpan 550. The purpose of the magnetic element 558 is to magnetically attract the mini broom 500 to the mini dustpan 550 (see FIG. 75). In addition, the purpose of the magnetic element 558 is to magnetically attract the mini dustpan 550 to a ferromagnetic or magnetic surface such as the front surface of the magnetic mount 300 (see FIG. 75). The magnetic element 558 on the mini dustpan 550 may be positioned on the mini dustpan 550 such that the magnetic element 558 on the dustpan is substantially aligned with the magnetic element 508 of the mini broom 500 (See FIG. 68-69) when the mini broom 500 is placed within the mini dustpan 550.

As shown in FIG. 68, the mini backwall 554 may have a mini dustpan protrusion 557. The purpose of the mini dustpan protrusion 557 is to assist the user in the removal of the mini broom 500 (See FIG. 73) from the mini dustpan 550.

As shown in FIG. 73, the mini dustpan protrusion 557 (see FIG. 68) creates a gap between the top portion 503 of the mini broom 500 and the backwall 554 such that the user can grip the top portion 503 of the mini broom 500 and separate the mini broom 500 from the mini dustpan 550. Alternatively, when the mini broom 500 is situated within the mini dustpan 550, the user can press down on the top portion 503 near the first end 501 of the mini broom 500. The dustpan protrusion 557 will cause the bottom portion 504 of the mini broom 500 to angle slightly above the mini collecting area 553 (see FIG. 68). The user can then grip a part of the bottom portion 504 of the mini broom 500 and disconnect the mini broom 500 from the mini dustpan 550.

As shown in FIGS. 73-74, the mini broom 500 may be placed within the mini dustpan 550. To secure the mini broom 500 to the mini dustpan 550, the user simply places the mini broom 500 within the mini dustpan 550. The magnetic element 508 within the mini broom 500 (see FIG. 61) and the magnetic element 558 within the mini dustpan 550 (see FIG. 70) magnetically attract and hold the mini broom 500 within the mini dustpan 550.

To remove the mini broom 500 from the mini dustpan 550, the user grips the top portion 503 of the mini broom 500, between the top portion 503 and the mini backwall 554 and pulls the mini broom 500 away from the mini dustpan 550 with sufficient force to overcome the magnetic attraction between the mini broom 500 and the mini dustpan 550. As explained previously, the mini dustpan protrusion 557 (see FIG. 68) creates a gap between the dustpan backwall 554

23

and the top portion **503** of the mini broom **500** allowing the user to properly grip a part of the top portion **503** or the bottom portion **504** of the mini broom **500**.

As shown in FIGS. 75-76, the mini dustpan **550**, with the mini broom **500** magnetically attracted therein, can be magnetically attracted to the front surface **301** of the magnetic mount **300**. To mount the mini dustpan **550** to the magnetic mount **300**, the user places the portion of the mini dustpan **550** that contains the magnetic element **558** (see FIG. 70) near the front surface **301** of the magnetic mount **300**. The magnetic element **311** within the front surface **301** of the magnetic mount **300** (see FIG. 43) is magnetically attracted to the magnetic element **558** in the mini dustpan **550** and holds the mini dustpan **550** in place.

To remove the dustpan **550** from the magnetic mount, the user simply grips a portion of the mini dustpan **550** and pulls away from the front surface **301** of the magnetic mount.

It should be noted that the mini dustpan **550** can be mounted onto other ferromagnetic or magnetic surfaces as well.

The foregoing disclosure of the exemplary embodiments of the present subject disclosure has been presented for purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the subject disclosure to the precise forms disclosed. Many variations and modifications of the embodiments described herein will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art in light of the above disclosure. The scope of the subject disclosure is to be defined only by the claims appended hereto, and by their equivalents.

Further, in describing representative embodiments of the present subject disclosure, the specification may have presented the method and/or process of the present subject disclosure as a particular sequence of steps. However, to the extent that the method or process does not rely on the particular order of steps set forth herein, the method or process should not be limited to the particular sequence of steps described. As one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate, other sequences of steps may be possible. Therefore, the particular order of the steps set forth in the specification should not be construed as limitations on the claims. In addition, the claims directed to the method and/or process of the present subject disclosure should not be limited to the performance of their steps in the order written, and one skilled in the art can readily appreciate that the sequences may be varied and still remain within the spirit and scope of the present subject disclosure.

What is claimed is:

1. A magnetic mount for a tool assembly, comprising:
 - a block having a front surface and a back surface;
 - a first mounting side wall extending from the front surface to the back surface, and a second mounting side wall extending from the front surface to the back surface, wherein the first mounting side wall and the second mounting side wall are located on different sides of the mount;
 - a first magnetic element disposed at or near the front surface of the block;
 - a wall mount to mount the block on a flat surface;
 - two or more asymmetrical indents on the block to accommodate one or more tools; and
 - a second magnetic element disposed between the indents.
2. The magnetic mount of claim 1, further comprising:
 - wherein the first mounting side wall and the second mounting side wall are located on opposing sides of the mount.

24

3. The magnetic mount of claim 2, wherein the first mounting side wall and the second mounting side wall are curved.

4. The magnetic mount of claim 2, wherein the front surface and the back surface are substantially flat.

5. The magnetic mount of claim 2, wherein the front surface has a skirt that extends radially outward.

6. The magnetic mount of claim 2, wherein the front surface has a larger surface area than the back surface.

7. The magnetic mount of claim 2, wherein the back surface has the wall mount to secure the magnetic mount on to a surface.

8. The magnetic mount of claim 7, wherein the wall mount includes a removable bracket which mates with a bracket slot.

9. The magnetic mount of claim 8, wherein the removable bracket contains a through hole extending from a mount side to a wall side.

10. The magnetic mount of claim 9, further comprising a finger indent on the wall side of the removable bracket.

11. The magnetic mount of claim 7, wherein the removable bracket contains a shoulder along a side, that is adapted to slide within a flange in the bracket slot.

12. The magnetic mount of claim 2, wherein the first mounting side wall includes a first side indent.

13. The magnetic mount of claim 12, wherein the first side indent is semicylindrical.

14. The magnetic mount of claim 12, wherein the first side indent is shaped to receive a rod or broomstick.

15. The magnetic mount of claim 12, wherein the first side indent includes a coating to increase frictional properties.

16. The magnetic mount of claim 12, wherein the second mounting side wall includes a second side indent.

17. The magnetic mount of claim 16, wherein the second side indent is semicylindrical.

18. The magnetic mount of claim 16, wherein the second side indent is shaped to receive a rod or broomstick.

19. A magnetic mount for a tool assembly, comprising:

- a front surface;
- a back surface;
- a first mounting side wall including a first indent and extending from the front surface to the back surface;
- a second mounting side wall including a second indent and extending from the front surface to the back surface;
- wherein the first indent and the second indent are asymmetrical;
- a first magnetic element disposed at or near the front surface; and
- a second magnetic element disposed between the indents;

wherein the first mounting side wall and the second mounting side wall are located on different sides of the mount.

20. A magnetic mount for a tool assembly, comprising:

- a front surface;
- a back surface;
- a first mounting side wall including a first semicylindrical indent and extending from the front surface to the back surface;
- a second mounting side wall including a second semicylindrical indent and extending from the front surface to the back surface;
- wherein the first indent and the second indent are asymmetrical;
- a first magnetic element disposed at or near the front surface; and
- a second magnetic element disposed between the indents;

wherein the first side indent and the second side indent are located on different sides of the mount, and include a coating to increase frictional properties.

* * * * *